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Friends share fond memories of Lino Brocka

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US court metes out 3-year sentence to ex-Quezon gov

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Prostate gland can rule a country's destiny

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Tanguilig conquers 'killer' lap, regains overall lead

■ News / A22

Pinay DH wins US case for $30,000 in back wages

PAG NASA PINAS AKO, MILYONARYA AKO!

High court gives go-ahead for religious endorsement

By Philip C. Tubeza

RELIGIOUS leaders can now endorse the candidates of their choice without fear of transgressing the law.

The Supreme Court yesterday struck down as unconstitutional a ruling by a Manila lower court which said that election endorsements by

SC/A21

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They had no choice but attend Palace brunch

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE BRUNCH was "beautiful" though the guests did not exactly have a choice but honor the Palace invitation.

President Macapagal-

THEY/ A6

HINDI PALA IMBITADO! PWERSADO!

FPJ, Lacson want INC to decide who'll run

Bets agree on last-ditch effort for opposition unity

By Carlito Pablo

IN A LAST ditch bid to unify the opposition, rival presidential candidates Fernando Poe Jr. and Sen. Panfilo Lacson agreed Thursday night to let the Iglesia ni Cristo decide who between them should challenge the candidacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo in this year's elections.

Poe and Lacson agreed on the formula to ensure the support of the Iglesia ni Cristo for the opposition and further boost their chances of winning the elections.

Surveys had shown that the opposition would have a greater chance of beating Ms Macapagal at the polls if they are united. But the SWS said that between Poe and Lacson, the actor would have a better chance under a united opposition.

The INC, which can command a bloc vote of at least 2 million, is also being wooed by the camp of Ms Macapagal.

An opposition source said that Poe and Lacson met at the residence of San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, a son of deposed President Joseph Estrada. It was their second meeting in three days.

The meeting came on the heels of persistent speculation that Ms Macapagal is either about to bag or had already secured the backing of INC.

The INC supported Ms Macapagal when she ran for senator in 1995 and vice president in 1998.

The same source, who spoke only on condition of anonymity, said that Poe and Lacson were scheduled to

FPJ, LACSON/ A21

VAL HANDUMON

YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY. The President caps a women's assembly at the Pacita Elementary School in San Pedro, Laguna, commemorating the day Filipino women won the right to vote 99 years ago by doing Gloria-robics—sideways, forward, bend, etc.

RP driver killed in Iraq attack; GMA orders no pullout

By Jerome Aning and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THE FEARS of those opposed to the deployment of Filipinos to Iraq have been proved true with the killing on Wednesday of a Filipino civilian in that violence-wracked Mideast country.

Petronila Garcia, executive director of the Department of Foreign Affairs' Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs, yesterday identified the civilian as Rodrigo Reyes from the province of Rizal.

He was driving a truck in a convoy that was ambushed on a highway in the town of Abdali 600 km south of Baghdad and near the Kuwait border. Two others, both Ukrainians, also died in the attack.

Reyes, 52, was employed by the First Kuwait Trading, a subsidiary of Kellogg Brown & Root, a division of the Halliburton Companies. Halliburton has provided the bulk of logistics services for the US Army since 1992.

But despite Reyes' death, President Macapagal-Arroyo sees no need to order the evacuation of Filipinos from Iraq.

"This incident does not call for the mass evacuation of our workers, although we are prepared for a calibrated response to any emergent contingencies," Ms Macapagal said in a statement. "I am not inclined to order the pullout of our humanitarian contingent in Iraq

RP DRIVER/ A22

Roco, Bro. Eddie meet; no one is sliding down

By Michael Lim Ubac

THEY prayed together and vowed to work towards a common goal of establishing "a moral regime."

But are they just prayer partners?

Yesterday, presidential candidates Raul Roco and Eddie Villanueva met at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati City for two hours, but the meeting, according to the Alyansa ng Pag-asa bet who had just returned from medical treatments in the US for a cancer that had recurred, "did not delve on political concerns."

Impeccable sources at the Alyansa camp said the meeting had effectively sealed the alliance between the two camps and had gone beyond a tactical alliance for joint poll watching.

A source from Villanueva's camp, however, said they had turned down Roco's proposal for the evangelist to slide down, adding that it was Roco who had initiated the meeting yesterday after making a late evening call Thursday following a pro-Villanueva rally in Makati City.

"After the successful rally for Bro. Eddie last night, I know where Roco got the idea to ask Bro. Eddie to slide down," said the source. Said Bangon Pilipinas spokesperson Luis Sison: "Vil-

ROCO/ A22

RUDY ESPERAS

"GREATEST Filipino writer of his generation," Nick Joaquin, is honored by floral offerings during his wake at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati. His ashes will be interred on Sunday.

Journalism versus Literature?

By Nick Joaquin

(Last of two parts)

The following speech was delivered in August 1996 by Joaquin, then the Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts.-ED.

IT DOESN'T take a magus to discern that literature is taking a back seat to journalism.

Poetry, drama, fiction—all these that we mean when we say literature—are obviously undergoing a change in life, a rite of passage. I don't mean they are on the decline. What I feel is that they are being reviewed, reassessed, reclassified.

And I fear that literature has been taken down a few ranks and ratings. If it used to occupy the room at the top, it no longer does.

The demotion can be explained by a radical change in human intellect. Until the 17th century the prime wheel in

JOURNALISM/ A21

Rallies, protests, free concert highlight Labor Day rites today

By Martin P. Marfil and Juliet Labog-Javellana

MILITANT workers will march, join caravans and hold protest rallies in key urban centers nationwide to mark Labor Day today and press for a wage hike.

But if the working class won't get a pay increase, it can at least enjoy a free concert.

A star-studded concert billed "Pasasalamat ni Pangulong Gloria sa mga Manggagawang Pilipino" is Ms Macapagal's Labor Day gift to workers. She will attend the 7 p.m. concert at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium in Malate, Manila.

The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), on the other hand, said it planned to present a 10-point package composed of non-wage demands to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

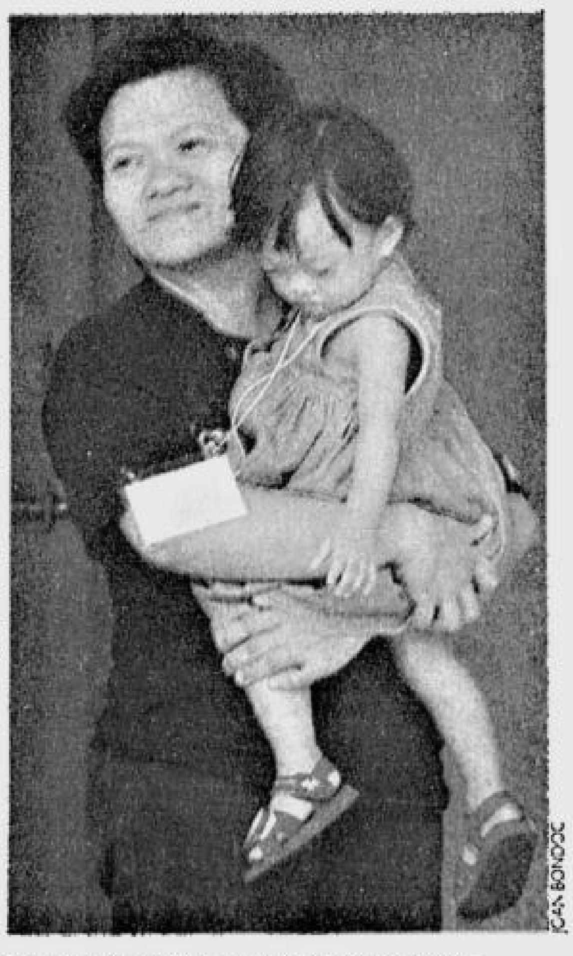
But its spokesperson Alex Aguilar said it would mobilize "tens of thousands" of workers for the May 1 rallies. "The strength of workers is in numbers, which is why we are going out to gather peacefully ... and air our demands to ease the workers' plight," Aguilar said.

Labor groups, including the conservative TUCP, are seeking wage increases ranging from P65 to P125, but Malacañang has said that it would not make an announcement on the matter today to avoid being accused of electioneering.

The President has passed to the regional wage boards the demand of workers for an across-the-board wage increase.

A Malacañang statement said the concert would feature performances by Sarah Geronimo, Parokya ni Edgar, Jong Cuenco, Bayani Agbayani, Vhong

RALLIES/ A6



JOAN BONDOC

FREE AGAIN: Nursing mother Zenaida Llesis is among the first political prisoners released as agreed during the last peace talks in Oslo, Norway.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE PAGASA

COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/05/01/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

Politicians are the problem–PNP

By Christian V. Esguerra and Luigi del Puerto

A DISMAYED Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. yesterday blamed politicians for most of the violent incidents in the run up to this year's elections.

"Our only problem is the politicians themselves; it's they who create trouble," Ebdane told reporters in an ambush interview.

PNP records showed that at least 11 politicians have been killed and six wounded in at least 69 election-related violence.

Ebdane said security measures have been in place as early as December, the start of the election period. But warring politicians apparently do not care, he said.

"There are politicians who do not want to sign (peace) covenants," he said. "There also those who like to enter into a covenant only after a follower of the other side has met an accident." But Ebdane refused to name the politicians.

With only nine days to go before the elections, the national police is still optimistic that further violence can be averted through the peace covenants.

"Covenants may be signed until election day," Ebdane said.

But Ebdane admitted that covenants were not necessarily effective in certain areas where warring politicians still resort to violence despite peace agreements.

The PNP has declared at least 12 cities as election "hot spots" while at least 550 areas have been identified as "election areas of concern."

Recently included in the list of hot spots are the towns of Natividad in Pangasinan, Moises Padilla in Negros Oriental, Tarangan and Jiabong in Western Samar, and Buug in Zamboanga Sibugay.

At least 11 cities and municipalities in Metro Manila are also considered election hot spots. These are Caloocan, Makati, Manila, Parañaque, Quezon City, Las Piñas, Pasig, Pateros, Taguig, Navotas, and San Juan.

As this developed, the National Movement For Free Elections (Namfrel) yesterday appealed to political parties to put a stop to bickering and mudslinging and urged them to instead "rally people" from "cynicism and hopelessness" that have beset the nation.

Namfrel chair Jose "Joecon" Concepcion, who met with representatives of major political parties at the Club Filipino yesterday, said people have seen enough, heard enough, read enough of what candidates have to say against each other.

The meeting was attended by Speaker Jose de Venecia, representing Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats; Sen. Edgardo Angara for the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino; lawyer Rex Rico for Aksyon Demokratiko; Senate President Franklin Drilon for the Liberal Party; Rep. Frisco Francisco for the Nationalist People's Coalition; Noberto Gonzales for the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas; and Gen. Honesto Isleta for Bangon Pilipinas.

Concepcion said that everybody agreed to hold a "clean and honest elections."

Namfrel officials also briefed the parties' representatives about the mechanics of the Namfrel quick count.

Namfrel said it could finish its unofficial tally in seven to 10 days.

Namfrel, the parties' representatives, and Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. would meet again today so parties could directly "raise their concerns" with the Comelec .

Concepcion said there are questions that "only the Comelec" can answer, like the peace and order situation in Abra and the dramatic surge in the number of registered voters in three cities in Metro Manila.

Namfrel Secretary General Guillermo Luz identified the "cities of concern" as Las Piñas, Taguig and Pasig.

US court sentences ex-Quezon gov to 3 years, 8 months in jail

By Rita Villadiego
Contributor

NEW YORK—After being jailed for a year in the Philippines for insurance fraud that he committed in the United States, former Quezon Gov. Eduardo Rodriguez has been sentenced by a Los Angeles court to three years and eight months in jail and ordered to return $101,033 to US-based insurance companies.

In a decision handed down last April 28, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Bob Bowers said Rodriguez committed insurance fraud and grand theft when he illegally collected $150,000 in insurance claims.

Rodriguez had claimed that his wife, Imelda, and her mother, Gloria Gener, had died. But both women were alive when Rodriguez filed the claims, the "Filipino Express" newspaper reported.

Rodriguez, who is to serve his jail term in a California state prison, was given 60 days to submit an appeal.

He was ordered to pay $100,000 to the National American Life Insurance and $1,033 to Reliance Standard Life Insurance, newspapers reported.

Rodriguez was a governor of Quezon in the late 1980s and early 1990s. His rivals made political capital of his alleged involvement in insurance fraud but he denied it. When Rodriguez attempted to run for reelection in 1995, his opponents uncovered his case and reported him to the US-based insurance companies.

After unsuccessfully opposing extradition, Rodriguez surrendered to the National Bureau of Investigation and voluntarily left the Philippines last year to face charges in Los Angeles.

He was put on trial and was found guilty of insurance fraud by a jury last November.

Rodriguez will be deported to the Philippines after he serves out his sentence.

GMA denies cheating charges

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday debunked the claim that a state cheating machinery was at work to ensure her victory in the May 10 elections.

"Should there be [an] attempt at cheating, it will never come from us. We are confident of victory and we will not tarnish democracy in any manner," the President said in a statement.

Ms Macapagal was reacting to fears expressed by three ranking Church leaders that the May 10 election would be attended by fraud. They did so during the launching of a coalition against electoral fraud, dubbed the Coalition for HOPE (honest, peaceful elections).

Davao City Archbishop Fernando Capalla, the president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, and Archbishops Gaudencio Rosales of Manila and Ricardo Cardinal Vidal of Cebu said they doubted that the Commission on Elections had the capability to conduct an honest count of the votes.

She said she was supportive of any plan by Church and cause-oriented groups "to lessen, if not totally eradicate, cases of electoral fraud."

In a dzRH interview early yesterday, the President stressed that she could not possibly influence the election count because the Comelec was an independent agency.

She noted that because the NGOs, Church and the media were watching the election preparations of the poll body, the Comelec would be expected to perform well. *Juliet-Labog-Javellana and Martin P. Marfil*

NEWSBRIEFS

Abus planned to bomb Metro, says AFP chief

THE MILITARY said yesterday the Abu Sayyaf Group had planned to conduct a series of bombings in Metro Manila before the elections but this plan was averted with the arrest of three ASG members earlier this week. Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday that threat of the ASG to carry out bombings in Metro Manila was a "credible" one. "Based on prior intelligence information, they were about to conduct some bombing activities before the elections. By and large, we have averted what could have been a disastrous bombing activity of the Abu Sayyaf," Abaya said. He also revealed that there are still Abu Sayyaf members in the metropolis and that he could not guarantee that all ASG members in Metro Manila have been arrested. "The way they are organized is they are organized into cells. I don't think that we have really arrested everybody in these cells so its possible that there are some of them who are lying low at the moment." The three suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf Group, identified as Dawabe Ben Albi Maulana, Talib Uddin and Arsad Abduhani, were arrested by a composite team from the military and police in the Muslim-dominated community of Culiat in Quezon City early Wednesday morning. Abaya said the military is still interrogating the three, adding that information obtained from the suspects could lead to the arrest of more ASG members in the city. "I don't think we have already pieced everything together." AFP Public Information Office chief Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero had earlier said the three were engaging in the drug trade to support the financial needs of the ASG. ***Alcuin Papa***

No power in FPJ rallies

DIPOLOG CITY—Even before someone could shout "lights, camera, action!" power went off in actor Fernando Poe Jr.'s campaign rallies in Western Mindanao on Thursday. In the opposition's grand rally here Thursday night, Poe's senatorial candidates had to give out lighted candles to the crowd as even the standby generator conked out. "This is deliberate" an indignant Poe said later when another power generator kicked in for his speech, referring to local allies of main rival, reelectionist President Macapagal-Arroyo. An angry Poe addressed the crowd in a higher-pitched voice, talking faster than his usually paced manner of speech. Poe said that the camp of President Macapagal is doing everything to put him down, including cutting electricity like what happened in Ozamis City and Molave town in Zamboanga del Norte. While the rest of the city had power running, it was only the plaza that had no electricity.

US colonel's killer

WITH 12 political prisoners released, government lawyers are working to free Donato Continente, one of two alleged communist assassins involved in the murder of United States Col. James Rowe in the late 1980s. The move was the Macapagal administration's way of complying with the Second Olso Joint Statement in which the government agreed to "inquire with dispatch" into the cases of Continente and the Mamburao farmers accused of murdering two men in 1997. Government negotiators agreed to "undertake the necessary steps to address their special concerns for their release based on humanitarian and/or legal grounds." Persida Acosta, Public Attorney's Office chief, yesterday said government lawyers were now going over voluminous records to see if Continente could be freed soon. "We're doing our best," she told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview. Continente, who is serving time at the New Bilibid Prisons, had been scheduled for release during previous peace negotiations but his release was blocked by the United States government ***Christian V. Esguerra***

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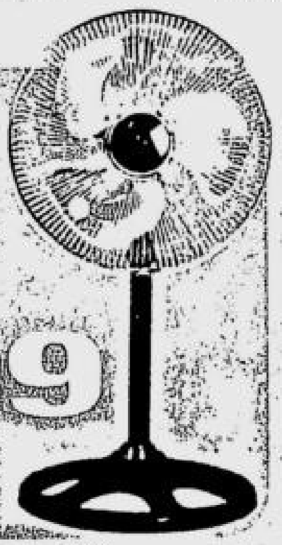

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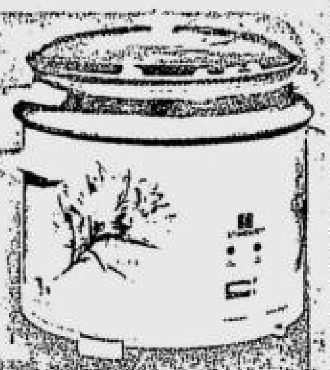

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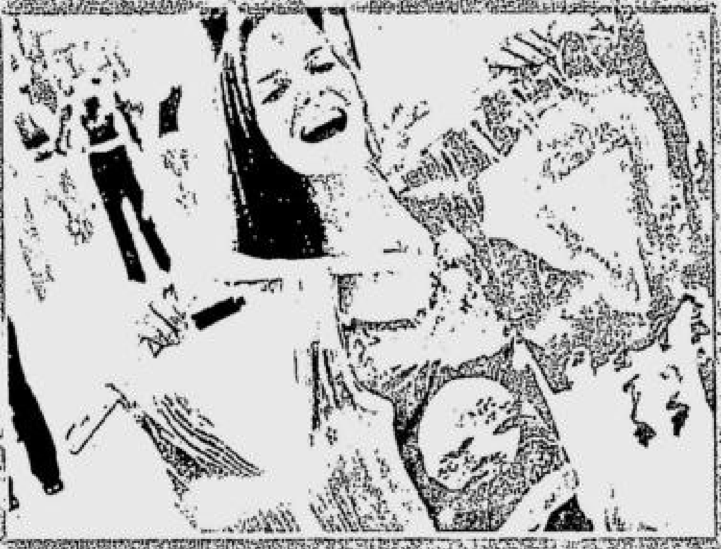

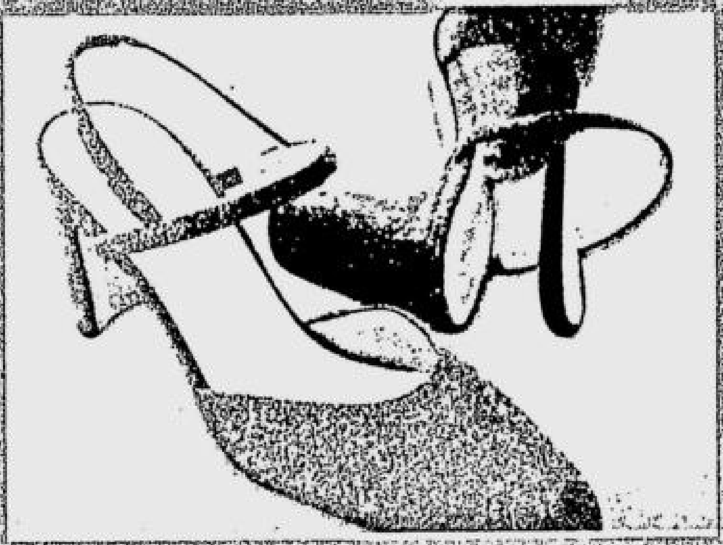

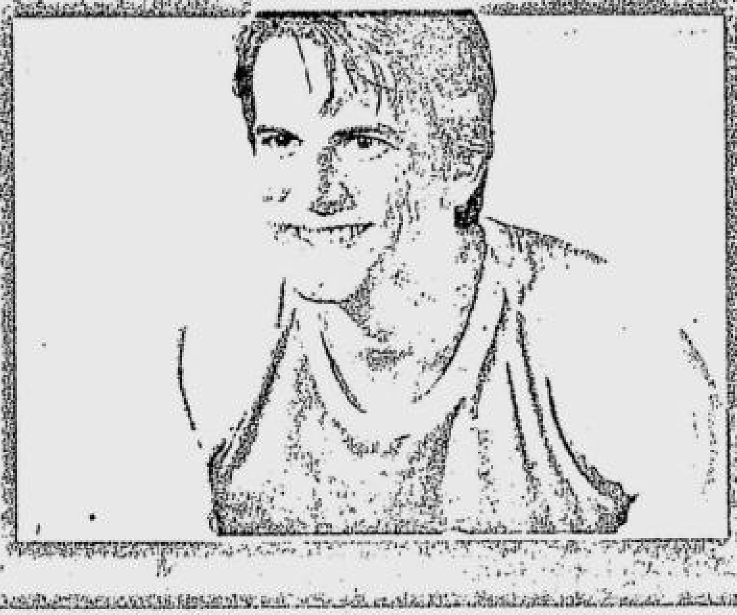

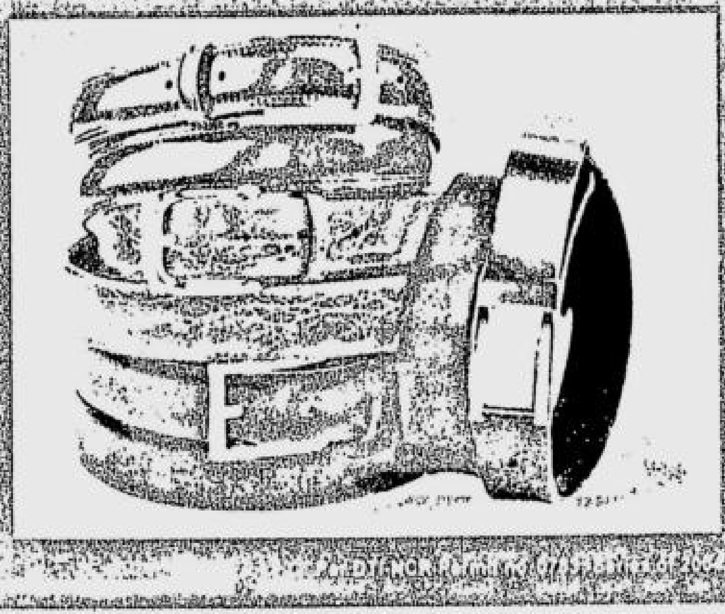

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Tarlac	13,721	ALALAY SA KAUNLARAN SA GITNANG LUZON, INC	Mr Rolando B Victoria
		COMMUNITY RURAL BANK, INC	Ms Teresita S Gomez
		COOPERATIVE BANK OF TARLAC, INC	Mr Wilfredo Antimano
		PRODUCERS RURAL BANKING CORPORATION (PRB San Jose City)	Mr Andres M Cornejo
Zambales	8,697	DAAN SA PAG-UNLAD, INC	Mr Rolando Dizon
		PRODUCERS RURAL BANKING CORP(PRB San Jose City)	Mr Andres Cornejo
		ZAMBALES RURAL BANK, INC.	Mr Jerry Coloma, Jr.
NCR	101,355	ABS - CBN BAYAN MICROFINANCE FOUNDATION, INC.	Mr Reno R. Rayel
		AGAPAY SA PAMUMUHAY COOPERATIVE	Ms Teresita C. Perez
		AHON SA HIRAP, INC (ASHI)	Ms Mila Mercado - Bunker
		BARANGKA CREDIT COOPERATIVE	Mr Roberto Mascariña
		BUILDERS RURAL BANK	Atty Avelino C Aguito
		CENTER FOR COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION	Ms Ruth S Callanta
		EUROCREDIT COOPERATIVE	Atty Alfeo D Vivas
		FIRST COUNTRY RURAL BANK	Mr Carlos Garcia
		FIRST MACRO BANK, INC	Ms Sonia L Ocampo
		FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES	Mr Severiano C Marcelo, Jr
		KAZAMA GRAMEEN (LINGAP SA PAMAYANAN), INC	Mr Hernando Valenzuela
		KOOPERATIBA NG SAMBAYANAN NG BANAL NA KRUS (KS BANK)	Mr Eduardo Martelino
		MARIKINA VALLEY RURAL BANK	Ms Ma. Zenaida L. Bautista
		OPPORTUNITY MICROFINANCE BANK (OMB)	Mr Noel Alcaide
		UPLIFT PHILIPPINES, INC.	Mr Benedicto Collevilla
Batangas	21,663	ABS - CBN BAYAN MICROFINANCE FOUNDATION, INC	Mr Reno R Rayel
		BANGKO KABAYAN (Ibaan RB)	Atty Francis S. Garzon.
		CARD RURAL BANK, INC	Ms Dolores M Torres
		COUNTRYSIDE COOPERATIVE RURAL BANK OF BATANGAS, INC.	Mr Rufino Hernandez
		LIPA PUBLIC BANK (A RURAL BANK) INC	Mr Carlos A. Cadiz, Sr.
		RURAL BANK OF MATAAS NA KAHOY (BATANGAS), INC.	Mr Gerard V Cadiz
Cavite	6,347	CAPITOL CITY (RURAL BANK OF TRECE MARTIRES), INC	Dr Nellie M. Ilas
Laguna	22,865	AHON SA HIRAP, INC. (ASHI)	Ms Mila Mercado - Bunker
		CARD, INC	Ms Flordeliza Sarmiento
		CARD RURAL BANK, INC	Ms Dolores M Torres
		CENTER FOR COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION	Ms Ruth S Callanta
		KALITING DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE	Mr Alfredo A. Acaylar
Marinduque	7,313	CARD RURAL BANK, INC	Ms Dolores M Torres
Occidental Mindoro	10,692	CARD, INC	Ms Flordeliza Sarmiento
		OCCIDENTAL MINDORO COOPERATIVE BANK	Ms Cristina D Viguilla
		SABLAYAN MARKET VENDORS MULTI - PURPOSE COOPERATIVE	Ms Laura L. Vidal
Oriental Mindoro	18,492	CALAPAN VENDORS MULTI - PURPOSE COOPERATIVE	Mr Fidel A Ligaya
		CARD, INC	Ms Flordeliza Sarmiento
		SAKLAW FOUNDATION, INC.	Fr Jimson H. Ruga
Palawan	4,378	COMMUNITY ECONOMIC VENTURES, INC.	Mr Edwin Crescencio
		COOPERATIVE BANK OF PALAWAN	Mr Henry Gadiano
		NEGROS WOMEN FOR TOMORROW FOUNDATION, INC.	Dr Cecilia Del Castillo
Quezon	36,476	CARD, INC	Ms Flordeliza Sarmiento
		CARD RURAL BANK, INC	Ms Dolores M Torres
		CATANAUAN CREDIT & DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE	Mr Jacinto Forneste
		KALITING DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE	Mr Alfredo A Acaylar
		POLILLO ISLANDS RURAL BANK	Ms Dona G Almeda
		RURAL BANK OF ATIMONAN (QUEZON), INC.	Mr Jose Paolo M Palileo
Rizal	20,580	ABS - CBN BAYAN MICROFINANCE FOUNDATION, INC	Mr Reno R Rayel
		AHON SA HIRAP, INC (ASHI)	Ms Mila Mercado - Bunker
		BARANGKA CREDIT COOPERATIVE	Mr Roberto Mascariña
		BMS RURAL BANK, INC	Mr Melchor Santos
		CENTER FOR COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION	Ms Ruth S Callanta
		FIRST MACRO BANK, INC	Ms Sonia L Ocampo
		FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES	Mr Severiano C Marcelo, Jr
		OPPORTUNITY MICROFINANCE BANK (OMB)	Mr Noel Alcaide
		RURAL BANK OF PILILLA INC	Mr Rodolfo M Valdez Jr
Romblon	1,280	ST VINCENT FERRER PARISH MPC	Mr Antonio D Fabito
Albay	20,041	AGRICULTURAL & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CATANDUANES	Mr. Oscar Alfaro
		IBALON RURAL BANK, INC.	Ms. Remedios Imperial
		RURAL BANK OF MALINAO, INC.	Ms. Sobydee L. Lopera
Camarines Norte	14,834	BASUD COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION	Mr. Angel F. Echano
		COOPERATIVE BANK OF CAMARINES NORTE	Engr. Jonah Pimentel
		RURAL BANK OF PARACALE, INC.	Mr. Victorino Lamadrid
Camarines Sur	35,734	AGRICULTURAL & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CATANDUANES	Mr Oscar Alfaro
		CARD, INC.	Ms. Flordeliza Sarmiento
		COOPERATIVE BANK OF CAMARINES NORTE	Engr Jonah Pimentel
		GOLDEN 7 BANK	Mr. Fidel L. Cu
		PRODUCERS RURAL BANKING CORPORATION (PRB San Jose City)	Mr. Andres M. Cornejo
Catanduanes	4,987	AGRICULTURAL & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CATANDUANES	Mr. Oscar Alfaro
Masbate	18,668	CARD, INC.	Ms Flordeliza Sarmiento
		CARD RURAL BANK, INC.	Ms. Dolores M. Torres
Sorsogon	10,587	AGRICULTURAL & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CATANDUANES	Mr Oscar Alfaro
		PEOPLES' ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD FOUND'N OF SORSOGON	Sis. Adelia S. Oling
Aklan	18,068	COOPERATIVE RURAL BANK OF AKLAN, INC.	Ms. Clarita Macahilas
		USWAG DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.	Ms Didi R. Quimpo
Antique	8,278	AHON SA HIRAP, INC.	Ms. Mila Mercado - Bunker
		TAYTAY SA KAUSWAGAN, INC.	Mr. Angel de Leon, Jr.
Capiz	13,220	TAYTAY SA KAUSWAGAN, INC.	Mr. Angel de Leon, Jr.
Guimaras	2,625	TAYTAY SA KAUSWAGAN, INC.	Mr. Angel de Leon, Jr.
Iloilo	38,784	ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED PERSONS (ILOILO), INC.	Mr Tiburcio Villanueva
		LIFE BANK	Dr. Vicente Perlas
		RURAL BANK OF BALASAN, INC	Mr. Eduardo Kapunan, Jr.
		RURAL BANK OF SAN ENRIQUE, INC.	Mr. Arturo P. Muyco, Jr.
		TAYTAY SA KAUSWAGAN, INC.	Mr. Angel de Leon, Jr.
Negros Occidental	33,431	NEGROS WOMEN FOR TOMORROW FOUNDATION, INC.	Dr. Cecilia Del Castillo
		NEW RURAL BANK OF VICTORIAS	Mr Jaime Lopez
Bohol	23,138	COMMUNITY ECONOMIC VENTURES, INC.	Mr. Edwin Crescencio
		FCB FOUNDATION, INC.	Engr. Panfilo Asares
		TAYTAY SA KAUSWAGAN, INC.	Mr. Angel de Leon, Jr.
Cebu	32,423	BACAYAN MULTI - PURPOSE COOPERATIVE	Ms. Emelia Borgonia
		CEBU PEOPLE'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE (CEPEDECO)	Mr. Alberto Bartolata
		CEBU PEOPLE'S MPC	Mr. Roberto Salera
		COMMUNITY RURAL BANK OF CATMON (CEBU), INC.	Ms Armida Caguila
		DUMANJUG MULTI - PURPOSE COOPERATIVE, INC.	Ms Mercedita Abella
		FIRST AGRO - INDUSTRIAL RURAL BANK, INC. (FAIR BANK)	Mr Gil Verallo
		FIRST CONSOLIDATED COOPERATIVE OF TOLEDO CITY	Mr Ricardo Lubino
		LAMAC MULTI - PURPOSE COOPERATIVE	Ms Elena Limocon
		NEGROS WOMEN FOR TOMORROW FOUNDATION, INC.	Dr Cecilia Del Castillo
		RURAL BANK OF OSLOB, INC.	Mr Jose Tumulak, Jr.
		TAYTAY SA KAUSWAGAN, INC.	Mr Angel de Leon, Jr.
Negros Oriental	8,389	LIHOK SA KAUSWAGAN FOUNDATION	Ms. Dorothy Dy
		NEGROS WOMEN FOR TOMORROW FOUNDATION, INC.	Dr Cecilia Del Castillo
		RURAL BANK OF AYUNGON	Mr Mano Dy
Siquijor	2,311	TAYTAY SA KAUSWAGAN, INC	Mr. Angel de Leon, Jr.
Biliran	2,257	NAVAL COMMUNITY CREDIT COOPERATIVE	Ms. Jecely Poyales
		TAYTAY SA KAUSWAGAN, INC.	Mr. Angel de Leon, Jr.
Eastern Samar	577	RURAL BANK OF GUIUAN, (EASTERN SAMAR)	Ms Annaliza Gonzales-Kwan
Leyte	20,044	CIABU PRIMARY MULTI - PURPOSE COOPERATIVE	Mr. Hersael L. Sabellano
		LEYTE FOURTH DISTRICT WOMEN CREDIT COOPERATIVE	Ms. Zenna Yrastorza
		METRO ORMOC CITY MULTI - PURPOSE COOPERATIVE	Mr. Jose R. Mosquite
		RURAL BANK OF DULAG (LEYTE), INC.	Ms. Natividad P. Yu
		RURAL BANK OF HINDANG, (LEYTE) INC.	Ms Anacleta Aboyme
		TAYTAY SA KAUSWAGAN, INC.	Mr. Angel de Leon, Jr.
Northern Samar	3,653	NORTHERN SAMAR DEVELOPMENT WORKERS	Mr Juan Vibal
		TAYTAY SA KAUSWAGAN, INC.	Mr. Angel de Leon, Jr.
Southern Leyte	6,742	BONTOC MULTI - PURPOSE COOPERATIVE	Mr Ernesto Alling
		SAN ROQUE MULTI - PURPOSE COOPERATIVE	Mr Roque M Catigan
		SOUTHERN LEYTE COOPERATIVE BANK	Ms Caryl Carbonel
		TAYTAY SA KAUSWAGAN, INC.	Mr. Angel de Leon, Jr.
Western Samar	6,219	EASTERN VISAYAS MICROCREDIT & MULTI SERVICE COOP	Ms. Helen Malibago
		SAMAR MICROCREDIT COOPERATIVE	Mr Manuel S. Mabini
		TAYTAY SA KAUSWAGAN, INC	Mr. Angel de Leon, Jr.
Basilan	1,607	KASANYANGAN FOUNDATION, INC	Mr Rodolfo Quinday
Zamboanga del Norte	4,275	RURAL BANK OF KATIPUNAN, INC.	Ms Bienvenida T. Alano
		RURAL BANK OF LILOY (ZN), INC	Mr Geronimo B. Rebolos
		RURAL BANK OF PRES. M.A. ROXAS, INC.	Mr Rizalito Sy
		RURAL BANK OF RIZAL, INC.	Atty. Alberto C Concha
Zamboanga del Sur	15,437	COOPERATIVE BANK OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR	Mr Venancio C Ferrer, Jr
		IPIL KOOP	Mr Elpidio L. Villaflor
		KASANYANGAN FOUNDATION, INC.	Mr Rodolfo Quinday
		MICRO-ENTREPRENEURS MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE	Ms Lena J Apolinario
		MUSLIMAH RESOURCE & INTEGRATED DEVT CENTER	Ms Zenaida Lewi
		PEOPLE'S MICROFINANCE COOPERATIVE	Mr Jame Papa
		RURAL BANK OF KATIPUNAN INC	Ms Bienvenida T. Alano
		RURAL BANK OF SALUG VALLEY, INC	Dr Gilda L. Songcal
		SERVIAMUS FOUNDATION, INC.	Ms Norma Gajon
Bukidnon	13,449	ASIAN HILLS BANK, INC	Mr Estelito R. Marabe
		BUKIDNON COOPERATIVE BANK, INC	Ms Wilhelmina Ferrer
		HAGDAN SA PAG-USWAG FOUNDATION,INC	Mr Vicente Geducos
		RURAL GREEN BANK OF CARAGA, INC	Mr Joseph Omar Andaya
Camiguin	1,281	MILAMDEC FOUNDATION, INC	Ms Rosemarie V Rivera
		RURAL BANK OF TALISAYAN, INC	Mr Ernesto C Galenzoga
		RURAL GREEN BANK OF CARAGA, INC	Mr. Joseph Omar Andaya
Misamis Occidental	11,687	PAGLAUM MPC	Mr Gadwin Handumon
		PEOPLE'S BANK OF CARAGA, INC.	Ms Carmelita B Bilaoen
		RURAL BANK OF OZAMIZ CITY	Mrs Elvira Tan
		RURAL BANK OF RIZAL, INC	Atty Alberto C Concha
Misamis Oriental	20,189	ASIAN HILLS BANK, INC	Mr Estelito R Marabe
		COOPERATIVE BANK OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, INC.	Ms Myrna A. Seacon
		ENTERPRISE BANK , INC	Mr Ignacito U Alvizo
		HAGDAN SA PAG-USWAG FOUNDATION,INC.	Mr Vicente Geducos
		MILAMDEC FOUNDATION, INC.	Ms Rosemarie V Rivera
		RURAL BANK OF TALISAYAN INC	Mr Ernesto C Galenzoga
		RURAL GREEN BANK OF CARAGA, INC.	Mr Joseph Omar Andaya
		SERVIAMUS FOUNDATION, INC.	Ms Norma Gajon
Compostela Valley	8,487	AD JESUM DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC	Sr Bernadette Dollete
		ENTERPRISE BANK , INC	Mr Ignacito U Alvizo
		PEOPLE'S BANK OF CARAGA, INC	Ms Carmelita B Bilaoen
		RURAL BANK OF MONTEVISTA INC	Mr Percival B Cantiller
		RURAL GREEN BANK OF CARAGA, INC.	Mr Joseph Omar Andaya
		SPES PAUPERUM FOUNDATION, INC	Ms Zenaida Serrano
Davao del Norte	5,245	ENTERPRISE BANK , INC	Mr Ignacito U Alvizo
		MONEY MALL RURAL BANK (RB Cuambog), INC.	Mr Victor Emmanuel Villarica
		RURAL BANK OF MONTEVISTA INC	Mr Percival B Cantiller
		SPES PAUPERUM FOUNDATION, INC	Ms Zenaida Serrano
		TAGUM RURAL BANK	Mr Reynaldo I. Reyes
Davao del Sur	16,795	ANCHOR SAVINGS BANK	Ms Evangeline Escobillo
		BANSALAN COOPERATIVE SOCIETY	Mr Ernesto Mabunga
		BUKIDNON COOPERATIVE BANK, INC.	Ms Wilhelmina Ferrer
		ENTERPRISE BANK , INC	Mr Ignacito U Alvizo
		RURAL BANK OF KORONADAL, INC	Mr John Oropeza
		RURAL BANK OF HAGONOY	Ms Gilda Hermosura
Davao Oriental	11,549	AD JESUM DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.	Sr Bernadette Dollete
		PEOPLE'S BANK OF CARAGA, INC	Ms Carmelita B Bilaoen
		RURAL BANK OF BAGANGA	Mr Paul Tadique
		RURAL BANK OF MONTEVISTA,INC.	Mr Percival B Cantiller
South Cotabato	7,458	BANSALAN COOPERATIVE SOCIETY	Mr Ernesto Mabunga
		COMMUNITY ECONOMIC VENTURES, INC	Mr Edwin Crescencio
		RURAL BANK OF ISULAN INC	Mr Armando L Lagon
		RURAL BANK OF TACURONG INC	Ms Mary Emilie Lagon
		WOMEN INDIGENOUS FOCUS FOR ENHANCEMENT	Ms Pendatayang Daulug
Sarangani	1,858	BANSALAN COOPERATIVE SOCIETY	Mr Ernesto Mabunga
		RURAL BANK OF KORONADAL, INC	Mr John Oropeza
		SARANGANI RURAL BANK	Mr Francisco L. Laiz, Jr
North Cotabato	7,897	COOPERATIVE BANK OF COTABATO	Mr Jun Carisma
		RURAL BANK OF TACURONG INC	Ms Mary Emilie Lagon
Lanao del Norte	11,581	COOPERATIVE BANK OF LANAO DEL NORTE	Ms Laarni L. Zasos
		HAGDAN SA PAG-USWAG FOUNDATION INC.	Mr Vicente Geducos
		MILAMDEC FOUNDATION, INC	Ms Rosemarie V Rivera
		SERVIAMUS FOUNDATION, INC	Ms Norma Gajon
Sultan Kudarat	6,182	RURAL BANK OF ISULAN INC	Mr Armando L Lagon
		RURAL BANK OF TACURONG INC	Ms Mary Emilie Lagon
		SOUTH COTABATO FOUNDATION	Ms Belen Fecundo
Lanao Del Sur	5,749	MARANAO RURAL BANK, INC	Mr Murshid M Rasuman
Maguindanao	303	PROVIDENT RURAL BANK OF COTABATO	Mr Elpidio F Masbad III
		RURAL BANK OF COTABATO CITY	Ms Remedios Angela T. Lopez
		SOUTH COTABATO FOUNDATION	Ms Belen Fecundo
Sulu	500	KASANYANGAN FOUNDATION, INC.	Mr Rodolfo Quinday
Tawi-Tawi	744	KASANYANGAN FOUNDATION, INC	Mr Rodolfo Quinday
Agusan del Norte	13,424	ENTERPRISE BANK , INC.	Mr Ignacito U Alvizo
		MILAMDEC FOUNDATION, INC	Ms Rosemarie V Rivera
		PEOPLE'S BANK OF CARAGA, INC	Ms Carmelita B Bilaoen
		RURAL GREEN BANK OF CARAGA, INC	Mr Joseph Omar Andaya
		RURAL BANK OF BUENAVISTA	Ms Lourdesita Chan
		RURAL BANK OF MONTEVISTA INC	Mr Percival B Cantiller
Agusan del Sur	11,807	ENTERPRISE BANK , INC	Mr Ignacito U Alvizo
		MILAMDEC FOUNDATION, INC	Ms Rosemarie V Rivera
		PEOPLE'S BANK OF CARAGA, INC	Ms Carmelita B Bilaoen
		RURAL BANK OF MONTEVISTA INC	Mr Percival B Cantiller
		RURAL GREEN BANK OF CARAGA, INC	Mr Joseph Omar Andaya
Surigao del Norte	18,580	CANTILAN BANK (Rural Bank of Cantilan, Inc.)	Gen. William Hotchkiss, Ret
		RURAL GREEN BANK OF CARAGA, INC	Mr Joseph Omar Andaya
		RURAL BANK OF PLACER, INC	Mr Johnson Cubing
		SIARGAO BANK, INC (RB Dapa)	Ms Adeundes Clave
		SURIGAO ECONOMIC DEV'T FOUNDATION, INC.	Mr Domingo P. Iligan
Surigao del Sur	13,182	CANTILAN BANK (Rural Bank of Cantilan, Inc.)	Gen. William Hotchkiss, Ret
		ENTERPRISE BANK , INC	Mr Ignacito U Alvizo
		PCCCI COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CENTER	Ms Aracelli Adobas
		PEOPLE'S BANK OF CARAGA, INC	Ms Carmelita B Bilaoen
		RURAL BANK OF MONTEVISTA INC	Mr Percival B Cantiller
		RURAL GREEN BANK OF CARAGA, INC	Mr Joseph Omar Andaya

1,052,476

*MFIs serving multiple provinces are listed in the provinces where they are currently serving more than 100 borrowers

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President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
State of the Nation Address
July 28, 2001

Guided by the vision and strategy of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to use microfinance as a pillar in poverty alleviation, **The People's Credit and Finance Corporation (PCFC)** headed by President & CEO Iluminada L.E. Cabigas and its Board of Directors headed by Chairman Margarito B. Teves, also Landbank President and CEO, in coordination with the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) formerly led by Secretary Teresita Quintos-Deles and Current Lead Convenor Secretary Veronica Fenix-Villavicencio, is proud to announce its extensive outreach and coverage of microfinance in the country during the last two years.

For the first time, a focused grassroot program is now serving **1,052,476** poor and marginalized families with microfinance services. This was made possible through partnership with committed and dedicated Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) which are now covering all 79 provinces, 115 cities and 1,173 of 1,495 municipalities all over the country. These MFIs are all now moving to provide microfinance services to all municipalities and to all barangays of the country.

TO ALL OUR PARTNER MFIs, OUR HEARTFELT THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE!

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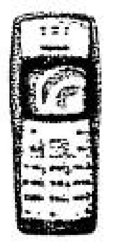

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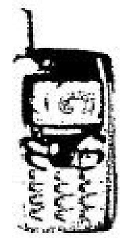

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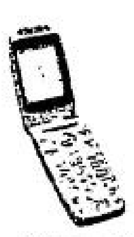

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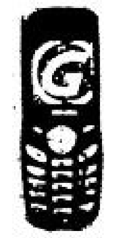

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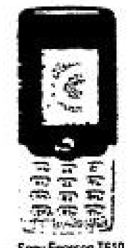

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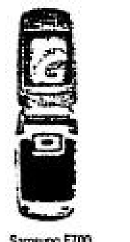

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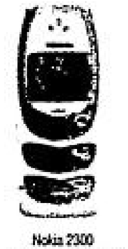

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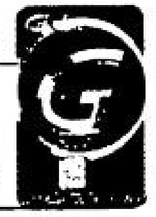

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Rallies, protests, free concert highlight Labor Day rites today

From page A1

Navarro, Jimmy Bondoc, Paolo Santos, Nyoy Volante, Salbakuta, Joey Ayala, Gem Ramos, Gee Girls, Interactive Band and other guests.

Actors Edu Manzano, chair of the Videogram Regulatory Board, and Joyce Jimenez are to host the show.

"The concert will add a new twist to the usual celebration of Labor Day in the country. And since Labor Day is a non-working holiday, the concert is a great opportunity for everyone to spend quality time with their families," Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said in the statement.

Mass actions nationwide

The militant Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) said it would mobilize hundreds of thousands of workers nationwide for the May 1 rallies.

It said there would be caravans in Central Luzon, motorcades in Southern Luzon, a march in Cebu City and other caravans in Negros, Southern Mindanao, and mass rallies in Davao City, Davao del Sur and Compostela Valley.

The KMU said it would demand immediate wage hikes, decent jobs, decent housing and affordable basic services.

The Partido ng Manggagawa (PM), another militant group, said it would hold simultaneous rallies in the cities of Manila, Cebu, Davao, Bacolod, Iloilo, Iligan and Zamboanga.

But Ms Macapagal said what she had done for labor was cause for celebration.

"We can celebrate the 1.1 million jobs that I created every year [for the last three years]. We should celebrate the 29-percent increase in minimum wage during my presidency," she said.

Ms Macapagal also said she would celebrate Labor Day this morning in Calabarzon, where the most numerous jobs were created.

'Miting de avance'

As part of the Labor Day activities, Anakpawis and Partido ng Manggagawa, two workers' groups seeking seats in Congress as party list organizations, are to hold their *miting de avance* in separate places.

The activities will be peaceful because it is not in the interest of workers to be violent, according to PM Rep. Renato Magtubo.

"This will only muddle the demand for wage increase. Our Labor Day issue is not political but economic. Despite the differences in formula and figures, organized labor has issued a unified stand on the wage issue that a pay hike must offset the increase in the prices of basic goods," the former union leader said in a statement.

Magtubo said Malacañang's "outright rejection" of any demand for a wage increase had emboldened militant labor groups to launch concerted protest actions today.

He raised the "possibility of this discontent turning into a massive protest vote on May 10."

He said the Partido ng Manggagawa and Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino were in unity with other labor groups under the Broad Alliance for Wage Increase (Bawi-65) in pushing for a P65-wage increase.

Leody de Guzman, BMP secretary general, said close to 30,000 workers and urban poor would assemble at the Mehan Garden early today for the PM *miting de avance*.

Later, they will march toward Mendiola to join the Bawi-65 contingents by noon. Simultaneous mass actions will also be held in Laguna, Batangas, Cavite, Bulacan, Iloilo, Negros, Cebu, Davao and Iligan and Zambonga City, according to De Guzman.

Kite-flying

A kite-flying project of the KMU, which is backing Anakpawis, will kick off activities at 8 a.m. at the Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila.

The event is dubbed "kite-flying against electoral fraud and violence."

Workers led by the KMU will then mass in various parts of Manila preparatory to the march toward Liwasang Bonifacio for the 1:30 p.m. *miting de avance* of Anakpawis.

Twelve senatorial candidates who are being backed by the group are expected to attend the occasion.

Anakpawis nominee Crispin Beltran said they were determined to secure at least two million votes on May 10.

He said that they were the "genuine representatives" of the poor and working sectors, and that their success in the electoral process would strengthen the voice of the masses in Congress.

The TUCP, which is backing the party-list group Trade Union Congress Party, will present its package of non-wage demands to Ms Macapagal during its 3 p.m. gathering at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

Included in the package are demands for withholding tax exemptions for workers earning P20,000 and below monthly, more government funds for mass housing, appropriation of idle public land for mass housing, especially in areas near industrial zones, and subsidized medicine.

The TUCP said its members would also be mobilized in the cities of Cebu, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro and Davao, and in the province of Laguna.

Guingona's influence

In a meeting with labor leaders in Manila, Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. said he would use his influence as policy adviser of presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. to make their demands part of Poe's election platform.

Guingona backed the labor leaders' demands for a P65-wage increase and for an end to contractual hiring in government positions and subcontracting in the private sector.

"As his humble adviser, I will do what I can to fight for your rights," the Vice President said.

He said the P65-wage hike was "a recovery, and not an increase," and pointed out that the devaluation of the peso, inflation and other recent economic setbacks had made the lives of Filipino workers more difficult.

OFW Fund

Guingona said he would also push for the adoption of his proposed "OFW Fund," which is aimed at meeting the needs of overseas Filipino workers, their livelihood when they return home, and their and their families' welfare.

Present at the meeting were leaders of the Bawi-65, as well as delegations from labor groups ranging from the TUCP to the militant BMP, Migrante, Alliance of Concerned Teachers and Courage.

Labor unions from the postal services, the railways and government health services were also represented. ***With reports from Jerome Aning in Manila; Delfin T. Mallari and Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

They had no choice but attend Palace brunch

From page A1

Arroyo yesterday admitted that the Edsa III participants she invited to late breakfast in Malacañang on Thursday first reported to the Department of Social Welfare and Development which, in turn, brought them to Malacañang.

The President justified this, saying this was part of her policy of reconciliation with Edsa III forces that sought to oust her. She said she would continue to extend the hand of reconciliation to her foes.

"If you remember those who directly participated (in the May 1 siege of Malacañang) were arrested and charged. But in the name of reconciliation, I had them freed after a few days. The judge said they can be released but they have to report to the DSWD every six months," Ms Macapagal said in a dzRH interview.

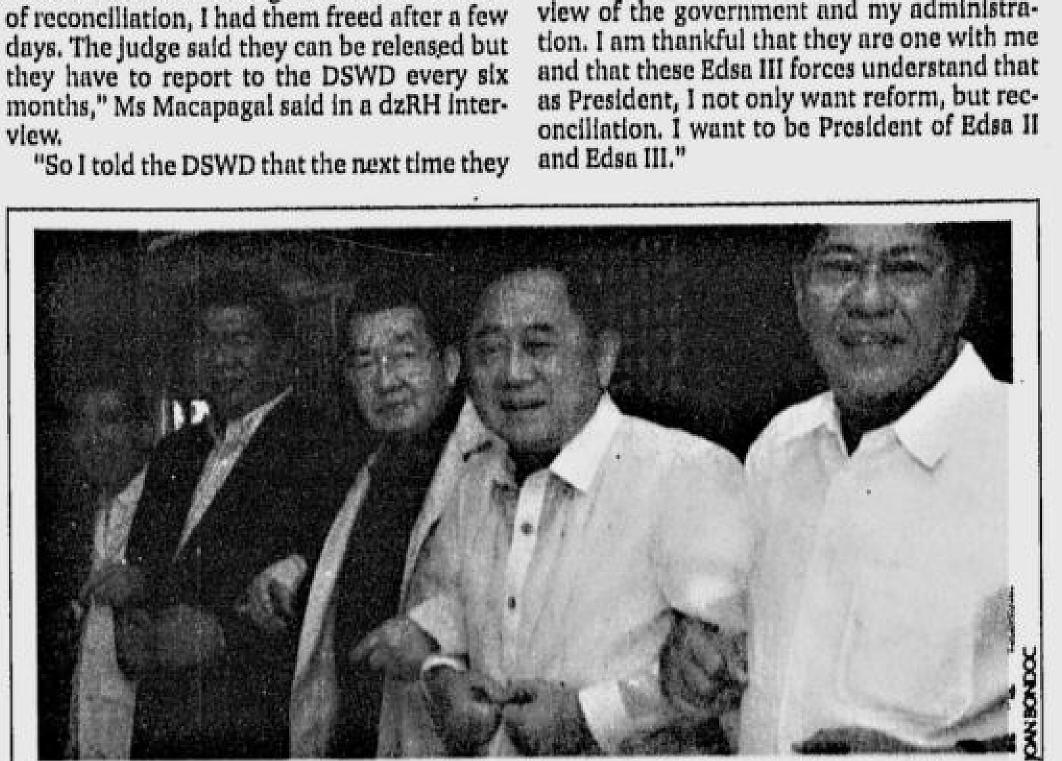
"So I told the DSWD that the next time they report to you, they should all report to Malacañang, let's have breakfast, let's reconcile and be united," she said.

She was thankful they came. Around 200 Edsa III participants had brunch of Russian salad, baked macaroni, ham and *pan de sal* with the President at the Palace Ceremonial Hall.

Some of those who came signed a manifesto supporting Ms Macapagal and pledged not to participate in any anti-government protest.

"It was beautiful," the President said of the brunch with her former enemies.

"I saw that they have a new life and a new view of the government and my administration. I am thankful that they are one with me and that these Edsa III forces understand that as President, I not only want reform, but reconciliation. I want to be President of Edsa II and Edsa III."



UNITY conference of the different political parties with Namfrel is held on Friday at Club Filipino. From left, retired Gen. Ernesto Isleta for Bro. Eddie, Vicente Jayme, Sen. Frank Drilon, Namfrel Chair Jose Concepcion, House Speaker Jose de Venecia and Sen. Ed Angara.

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US Embassy officials award P840,000 to Abu informant

US EMBASSY officials yesterday awarded a cash bounty to a Filipino informant who led authorities to the arrest of an Abu Sayyaf member who beheaded an American hostage in 2001.

US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli handed over a briefcase containing about P840,000 ($15,000) to the masked informant inside the mission grounds as Filipino and American officials looked on.

The unnamed informant was rewarded for the arrest of Alhamser Limbong alias "Commander Kosovo" who was captured along with five other Abu Sayyaf militants in a series of raids in Manila last March.

The military said Limbong was the person who beheaded Californian Guillermo Sobero, who was abducted by the gunmen along with Kansas missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham and a group of Filipino tourists in May 2001.

Martin Burnham was later killed during a rescue mission in June 2002, while his wife survived and was reunited with their children.

The Abu Sayyaf, which has been linked by Washington and Manila to the al-Qaida terror network, has kidnapped Christians and foreigners in the southern Philippines for a decade, sometimes beheading their captives if ransom is not paid.

Mussomeli said the arrest of Commander Kosovo showed that "ordinary Filipino citizens can help put terrorists where they belong—behind bars."

He noted that the capture of the rebel was just the latest in a series of arrests or killings of Abu Sayyaf leaders—usually due to information given by local citizens.

The US Embassy officials also distributed "wanted posters" with the faces of 17 other Abu Sayyaf leaders, offering rewards to those who provide information for their capture.

The face of Limbong and two other Abu Sayyaf leaders who were killed or captured, were crossed out.

"All identities will remain anonymous," the poster read.

The Philippine government has its own rewards program. *AFP*

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Rexona Men Ron Ionic 40ML	44.75	[illegible]

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
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Rexona Men Stk Ionic 40G	99.75	[illegible]

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
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Rexona Ron Cwh 40ML	44.75	[illegible]
Rexona Ron Oxygen 40ML	44.75	[illegible]
Rexona Ron Silk 40ML	44.75	[illegible]

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
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Rexona Stk Cwh 40G	99.75	[illegible]
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* AULIN TAB 100MG	30.25	27.25
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* LOGIMAX ER TAB	44.50	42.25
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* SUMAPEN SUSP 250MG 60ML	104.00	98.75
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* TERGECEF GRAN SUSP 100MG 60ML	754.50	716.50
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* XELENT CAP 250MG	40.75	38.50
* XELENT CAP 500MG	75.00	71.00
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* XELENT PDR SUSP 250MG/5ML 60ML	355.50	337.50
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* TENORMIN TAB 100MG	40.00	38.00
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REBUILD THE ECONOMY, REBUILD PEOPLE'S LIVES

TODAY (May 1, 2004) our workers again take the streets to demand wage increases to regain their purchasing power that is being eroded daily by inflation and the rising cost of living.

We, at the Fair Trade Alliance (FTA), fully sympathize with the country's working men and women.

The real wages in the Philippines have not risen in the last three and a half decades – compared to the situation in South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong and even Malaysia. This is why the lives of majority of the Filipino workers and their families have remained on the margins, with limited access to basic needs and to life-enriching and life-extending amenities. In contrast, we see ordinary workers from Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Hongkong and Malaysia touring Philippine beaches and resorts, enjoying the benefits of higher wages and incomes created by their transformed economies.

The sad lesson is that the economies of our neighboring Asian countries developed in the last three and a half decades, while ours deteriorated in the same period. And yet, in the 1960s, we were ahead of them and we were one of Asia's industrial leaders.

The challenge facing the Filipino working men and women on May Day and the days after and well into the six years of the next Administration can not be reduced to only a fight for the restoration of eroded real wages, which can even be wiped out totally and instantly if jobs are lost when industries and businesses collapse or disappear. ***The real challenge is how to rebuild a shattered economy and correct past and present economic policies*** which have neglected the rounded development of Philippine industry and agriculture, which unfairly opened up the economy to foreign goods in a unilateral manner, at the expense of local industrial and agricultural producers, and which ignored the entrepreneurial talents and the productive skills of our own people as well as the potentials of our own domestic market and our own natural resources as the foundation for value-adding spiral of growth and development.

What we have been adopting during the last three and a half decades is a lazy economic paradigm which says that growth will come about only by simply relying on foreign borrowings and foreign capital infusion while opening up the economy, sector by sector.

Thus, on October 29 last year, at Club Filipino, we – representatives of industry, labor, farmer and civil society organizations – came together to forge a unified vision of how Philippine society can recover from the never–ending economic crisis and confront the intensifying problems of massive business, farm and job dislocations across the country.

ON MAY DAY this year, we would like to reiterate our agreement on how to rebuild the Philippine economy. We remain united in the following FTA advocacies:

- ➢ To fight for fairness in the global and national trading system, since the untimely demise and the imminent collapse of certain industries, agricultural cropping areas and jobs are traceable to the unequal and unjust trade, monetary and economic policies imposed on the Philippines by the international financial institutions and global trade bodies such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) as well as to the unequal and unjust trading practices of other countries such as the monopolistic control on technology, the dumping of excess and subsidized products and the limitations in the entry of Philippine products into their markets;
- ➢ To help enlighten the nation on the crucial importance of reviving the spirit of economic nationalism —
    - ▪ By countering the destructive and stultifying impact of an alien economic ideology that opened up the economy through a series of rapid tariff reduction programs,
    - ▪ By reviving and developing a pro-Filipino culture of industrialism, entrepreneurship, productivity, excellence and national solidarity or ***tangkilikan***, and
    - ▪ By encouraging industrialists, businessmen, labor organizers, farm leaders and other economic players to undertake a humane, smooth, forward-looking and, as much as possible, win-win adjustments to ensure the survival and growth of jobs, farms and businesses.

Social Covenant on Surviving the Crisis Together.

To achieve the above, we committed ourselves to the following:

On the part of captains of industry and business - to preserve and create as many jobs as possible.

On the part of labor leaders and trade unions - to recognize the importance of making business productive since sustainable jobs require sustainable businesses.

On the part of both business and labor - to support each other in the preservation and expansion of jobs and businesses.

On the part of the farming sector - to uphold the vision of a progressive Philippine farming and fishery system able to feed the nation and provide the raw material requirements of industry.

On the part of all sectors - to continuously upgrade Philippine-made products, to produce, buy and sell Philippine-made and Philippine-grown products, and to encourage families, friends, associations and communities to do the same. The greatest help we can give to labor and to ourselves is to improve our productivity and hold our prices as much as we can bear. Declining productivity only adds to the inflationary trend which will make it difficult for our countrymen to make both ends meet. Improving productivity will make us more competitive thereby allowing us not only to preserve jobs but to create more jobs.

We shall remain united in asking the government and its varied agencies, particularly those dealing with trade, industry, agriculture and employment, to be faithful to the mandate of the Constitution to help develop a productive and progressive national economy effectively controlled by Filipinos by having the political will to:

- ➢ Assert the interests of Philippine industry, agriculture and employment in the various trade negotiation talks (under the WTO, AFTA and APEC), including the review and implementation of past agreements,
- ➢ Fight for the adoption and application of appropriate trade, fiscal and other remedies and sanctions vis-à-vis cases of foreign dumping, smuggling and other acts of unfair trade,
- ➢ Require economic planners and trade negotiators to make full and timely disclosure of and consultation on Philippine commitments to various trading bodies,
- ➢ Include qualified representatives from industry, labor and agriculture as observers and resource persons in international negotiations, and
- ➢ Address legitimate grievances of the business and industrial sector, farm sector and the labor sector, particularly disincentives to business and employment generation such as red tape, arbitrary taxation [measures] at the local and national levels, high power cost adjustments, traffic, garbage disposal, expensive infrastructure, peace and order and lack of government support for R & D.

WE ARE UNITED in the belief that the Filipino has the talent and potential to recover from the present crisis and catch up with the best in Asia, as we once were, if all the sectors – in particular, government, industry, agriculture and labor – can unite on a common development vision and a common action agenda as outlined above.

FAIR TRADE ALLIANCE

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco.

Indonesia police arrest Bashir as terror suspect

BASHIR

JAKARTA—Indonesian police arrested Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir as a terror suspect on Friday as he walked out of jail after serving time for lesser charges while his supporters hurled rocks and firebombs at police.

Bashir, accused head of the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah network, was released on Friday after 18 months in prison for immigration offenses but was served with an arrest warrant and detained as he left the jail in Jakarta.

Police had said earlier they would re-arrest him over allegations he had violated various anti-terrorism statutes.

Under Indonesian law he could be held for up to six months for questioning and investigation before formal charges are laid.

The prison warden walked with Bashir, 65, to the jail exit where police were waiting. An officer tried to give Bashir the arrest warrant but he refused to accept it, witnesses said.

Asked for his reaction to being re-arrested, a smiling Bashir said: "There is no problem. There is no problem. I'm fine." Police then helped the cleric into a waiting armored vehicle and drove him to police headquarters.

"What we witnessed just now was an illegal action from the police. We have not seen that warrant. The warden has not seen that warrant," said Munarman, a lawyer for Bashir.

"This proves the police are showing off in front of their financial backers," he said, charging that the police were acting after receiving millions of dollars in financial aid for antiterrorism training from the United States.

"This morning, they showed their sponsors that they have done the job," Munarman said.

Police had questioned the frail cleric earlier this week regarding the October 2002 bomb blasts in Bali which killed 202 people, and had said on Thursday they would arrest him on suspicion of violating antiterror laws.

"He has been detained. He was released by the penitentiary and we handed him the arrest warrant and then detained him," Maj. Gen. Suyitno Landung, head of the police criminal investigation department, said. *Reuters*

US warplanes bomb Fallujah

10 US soldiers killed; Iraqi forces to handle security

FALLUJAH, Iraq—US warplanes bombed insurgents in Fallujah Thursday night and 10 US soldiers were killed in attacks around Iraq, pushing the US April death toll to 120, more than in last year's entire six-week war that toppled Saddam Hussein.

The bombing of Fallujah came as marines who have been laying siege to the flashpoint Sunni Muslim city for three weeks prepared to scale back their presence.

The US military said the bombing on the third straight day of air attacks destroyed two buildings the insurgents were using for cover.

"We had a couple of F-16s and Navy F-18s drop six precision guided munitions in Fallujah, destroying two buildings where anti-coalition forces were hiding or using to fire on marines," said Air Force spokesperson Lt. Gary Arasin in Washington.

"They also performed several strafing passes," he said.

Marines around Fallujah were to transfer responsibility for security to Iraqi-led forces commanded by a general from Saddam Hussein's disbanded army.

But US defense officials denied the troop reshuffle spelled an end to the siege of Fallujah, which began in early April after four civilian US contractors were killed and two were then publicly mutilated.

Almost a year after US President George W. Bush declared an end to major combat operations, stability in Iraq remained elusive.

Eight US troops were killed and four wounded in a car bombing near Mahmudiyah, south of Baghdad.

And two US troops, an Iraqi and a South African civilian were killed in three other incidents, according to military and hospital sources.

A Filipino employee was also reported killed, but Manila did not immediately provide details of its first civilian casualty in Iraq.

At least 3,000 Filipino civilians are employed by private contractors engaged by the US-led occupation forces, while 43 Filipino soldiers and eight policemen form part of the occupation.

The latest US troop deaths raised the US military toll to 731 since the invasion in March last year. Estimates of Iraqi deaths ranged above 10,000.

April has been the bloodiest month in Iraq since the invasion.

A fresh US opinion poll Thursday showed support for the war down in the past month, with 47 percent of those surveyed saying it was justified, down from 58 percent a month ago.

Forty-six percent said the United States should never have become involved in Iraq, up from 37 percent, and 58 percent said the results of the war were not worth the loss of American lives, up from 54 percent a month ago.

But US Secretary of State Colin Powell said he was convinced US public support would rise again.

"Once we deal with the current difficult situation in Fallujah and also down in Najaf area, people will recognize that we are on the top of it, and the polls will reflect that," he said in Copenhagen after a meeting with Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen.

Rasmussen said his country would not withdraw its 500 troops operating under British command in the southern region of Bassora. Denmark is also seeking a greater role within the United Nations, he said. *AFP*

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Child slays, black magic scare hits Pakistan town

MURIDKE, Pakistan—When the 5-year-old boy ran home bleeding and weeping, his family first thought he had injured himself in a fall.

At the doctor, they discovered Zainul Abideen had been stabbed, with wounds to the chest and abdomen requiring 20 stitches. Now they believe the boy was attacked by a serial killer targeting young children in this small town, where three children have been knifed to death in the past three weeks.

Police say the slayings could be part of a black magic rite and have arrested about 20 suspects. One confessed to the first three assaults, including stabbing Zainul. Then, another child was murdered while that suspect was in custody, leading police to believe the man has accomplices at large or gave a false confession.

Such acts of random violence are rare in Pakistan, a deeply religious society where most killings are the result of family or land feuds. Failure to stop the slayings has triggered protests against police, and one resident was killed by police gunfire during the unrest.

Compounding the horror, the latest two killings happened on consecutive Fridays, the holiest day of the week in this overwhelmingly Islamic country.

Amid the climate of fear, life in Muridke, a town of 50,000 people about 30 km outside the eastern city of Lahore, is near paralyzed. School attendance is down and the streets of simple mud-brick houses and shops are empty of children.

Zainul Abideen is still apparently terrified from the attack. The boy played contentedly recently in his family's yard but recoiled in fear when beckoned outside.

"No, no," he muttered, reaching for his mother.

Asked who stabbed him, the child pointed to the dusty street and said: "He was a boy. He was a boy." *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

2 more SARS cases confirmed in China

BEIJING—Two more people were confirmed as having SARS Thursday as World Health Organization experts met Chinese disease control officials amid concern the deadly virus could jump China's borders. The two new patients were previously listed as suspect cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. One was in critical condition, the health ministry said. China now has three confirmed SARS cases in Beijing and one in eastern Anhui province. There are also five suspected cases, four in Beijing and one in Anhui. The latest confirmed cases are the mother and an aunt of Beijing's first SARS patient during its latest outbreak, a nurse surnamed Li. *AFP*

Bremer issued pre-9/11 warning

BREMER

WASHINGTON—The head of the US-led coalition in Iraq, Paul Bremer, warned six months before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that the Bush administration seemed to be paying no attention to the problem of terrorism and appeared to "stagger along" on the issue. Bremer, who in 1999 chaired a national commission on terrorism, gave a speech on Feb. 26, 2001, in which he said the "general terrorist threat" was increasing. "The new administration seems to be paying no attention to the problem of terrorism," Bremer said in remarks to the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation. "What they will do is stagger along until there's a major incident and then suddenly say, 'Oh, my God, shouldn't we be organized to deal with this?'" *Reuters*

Bush, Cheney grilled on 9/11

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush said he and Vice President Dick Cheney answered every question on Thursday from the panel investigating the Sept. 11 attacks and denied their joint appearance was aimed at keeping their story straight. In comments afterward in the White House Rose Garden, Bush declared the extraordinary, three-hour-and-10-minute session a success that he hoped would lead to recommendations about how to guard against future attacks because "we are still vulnerable to attack." He dismissed criticism from Democrats that he wanted to appear together with Cheney so they would not contradict each other. "Look, if we had something to hide we wouldn't have met with them in the first place. We answered all their questions. As I say, I came away good about the session because I wanted them to know how I set strategy, how we run the White House, how we deal with threats," Bush said. The president had only agreed to meet the commission under pressure from victims' families and the panel, and only on condition he have Cheney at his side and they meet in private, with no recording of the session They were not under oath *Reuters*

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Publisher **ISAGANI YAMBOT**
Editor in Chief **LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC**
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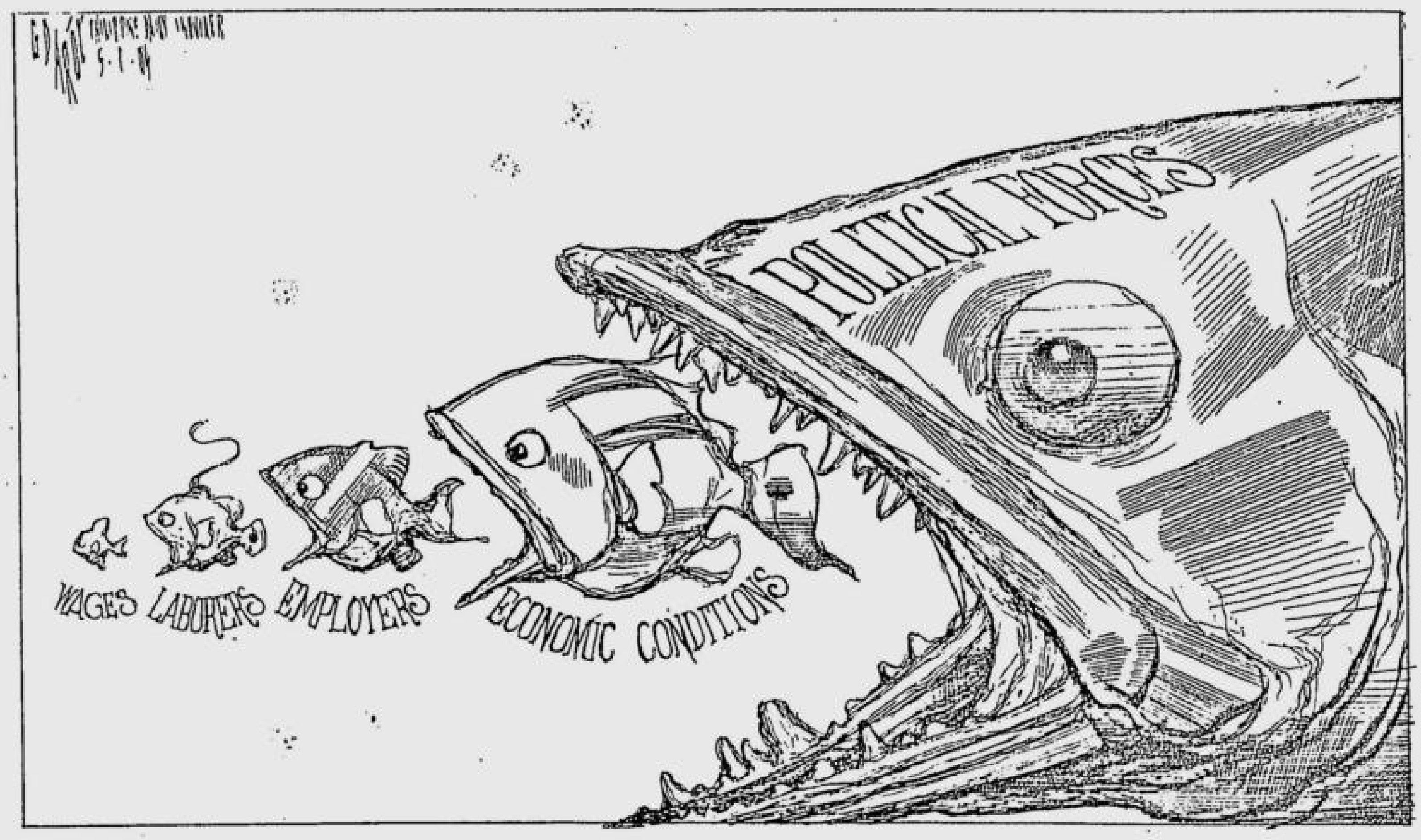


From campaign. . .

EDITORIALS

THE LEADING Alyansa ng Pag-asa senatorial candidate described the 1,000-car motorcade that brought their standard-bearer Raul Roco triumphantly through the yellow confetti of Makati on Wednesday in broad, optimistic terms. "This is the groundswell of support that will be the turning point of the campaign," former Solicitor General Frank Chavez told reporters.

Brave talk, but not rooted in reality. Roco's return from an unanticipated two-week medical leave in the United States was not the turning point in his campaign, if by that phrase we mean the start of a dramatic turnaround in his electoral fortunes. Certainly there was drama in his homecoming; there was mystery, because of his medical condition; and there was history, with Roco's yellow shirt and the passage through Ayala Avenue designed to bridge two decades and link his candidacy with the political legacy of his hero, Ninoy Aquino.

But the outpouring of support does not mean that Roco will reclaim the commanding heights of the election surveys he occupied last year. Time is not on his side. Neither is momentum.

His return—hyped with the use of the iconic yellow ribbon—may arrest the decline in his survey ratings. It may even lead to a rebound in his poll numbers. But it would be folly to expect his ratings to jump up to the 30 percent level, where he would be within striking distance of the two front runners.

Before his medical condition became a national cause of concern, Roco's ratings stayed at about 20 percent for the better part of a year. Midway through the 90-day campaign period, in a race that had drawn popular movie actor Fernando Poe Jr. into the fray and sidetracked popular broadcaster-turned-senator Noli de Castro into the vice-presidential contest, his numbers slipped to about 15 percent, the victim of a cruel if practical arithmetic.

The most that we can reasonably expect, therefore, is for his ratings, currently at about 8 percent, to bounce back to where they were before. It's possible that his temporary absence from the campaign trail shocked voters into closer scrutiny of the remaining candidates, thus putting his virtues in a better light. But for that to happen to a substantial number of voters, his rivals would have had to yield the stage to him. None of the other presidential candidates, however, obliged. Eddie Villanueva, the one who seems closest to him in terms of voter appeal, wasted no time in stepping into the void Roco left. His massive rally in the center of Makati, the day after Roco's motorcade, all but erased the impression Roco's return left on the public imagination.

Roco's initial evasiveness about the true state of his health did not help matters. It was, in fact, a public relations disaster, because it only kept the health question in the news. On Thursday, he denied being evasive, saying nobody at the airport news conference asked him for a medical bulletin. "Nobody asked, so nobody got," he said, to no one's satisfaction.

...To crusade

BUT all this is not to say that presidential candidate Raul Roco should withdraw from the race. It is only to belabor the obvious: The factors for winning are not in his favor. And there's more to an election than merely winning it.

Roco hinted as much in his arrival remarks. Calling his campaign a "crusade for hope," he said it was no longer about winning the elections, but saving a sick country.

"I am a believer in miracles—faith in God in the name of Jesus, faith in the intercession of Ina, Our Lady of Peñafrancia, faith in the Santo Niño," he said. "I do not know that they will work a miracle for me, but I know that they will have the compassion to work a miracle for the Philippines."

This is not the ringing rhetoric of a man who is confident of victory, but of a leader who has a new appreciation for the true priorities in life.

"The Filipino is worth fighting for," Roco said the day he returned, in deliberate tribute to Aquino's famous line. He said he will continue to fight for the presidency, but everything else about him said the election was now only one battle, in a larger and protracted war.

Scylla and Charybdis

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Fernando Poe Jr., the King of Philippine Movies, are the front-runners in the current presidential race, according to the surveys. The country will face a bleak future whoever of them wins.

GMA appears to be better prepared both as to intellectual endowments and political experience. But her performance so far as accidental President, coupled with her choice of two paltry actors in her senatorial ticket, leaves many people in doubt about her eligibility.

She is now being attacked for using the resources of the government to advance her candidacy. It is claimed that her supposed inspection trips all over the country are campaign sorties financed with public funds. Her expensive propaganda extolling her virtues consists of full-page advertisements, television and radio commercials and billboards all over the land also at government expense.

Principally because of her high-pressure salesmanship, she has won a lot of support even from the *masa* that was originally indifferent to her. Part of this change may be due to her distribution to them of many goodies like the PhilHealth cards. And there are also her cheap stunts like wearing ethnic attire and eating with her fingers to prove that she is like the indigenous people.

FPJ is a high school dropout who has no political experience or credible platform. I have two grandchildren, aged 9 and 8, who can speak better English than he can. English is now a universal language, but it is practically Greek to Poe. President Poe, if elected, will have to make do with his Tagalog in official communications with other heads of state.

A dashing action star on film, Ang Panday is afraid to debate with his rivals and pleads a previous appointment when cornered in an ambush interview. He mumbles his replies to conceal his bewilderment. He does not seem to be bright enough to realize that he is being manipulated by his disreputable sponsors like a puppet on a string and for their own secret purposes.

His senatorial slate includes the discards of Philippine politics who supported the deposed President Estrada and identified themselves with his abuses. These are the notorious figures who are blighting his campaign and will probably take over the reins of government if their front man wins. And there is also Erap's son and co-accused as a further blemish upon Poe's party.

Yet, for all their shortcomings, either GMA or FPJ will be the winner in the coming elections this month. The confabulation of mercenary, ignorant and deluded voters can elevate one of them to the highest office in the land and condemn our country to another six years of misgovernment under a false, ineffective and dishonest leadership.

How do we correct this threat to our democracy? Benjamin Franklin said that if the voters misuse their suffrage, the remedy is not to remove it from them but to teach them on its proper uses. That is easier said than done, however. We shall have to contend with the more ubiquitous and pernicious influences from which they derive their lessons on civic duties and responsible citizenship.

These are the shabby segments of the mass media, the secretly paid political hucksters masquerading as modern-day prophets, and the formidable *bakya* crowd that has caricatured the Philippine electorate as a mindless instrument for the acclamation of the mindless.

We face a difficult task but we must discharge it for the sake of our future. The coming generations should not be brought up as helpless wards, or victims, of a confused and ignorant government. Clowns are good but only for the circus, and we do not need action heroes who shoot blanks at their collapsible enemies. We live in the real world, not the floodlights of artificiality and pretense.

What we need in the public service are honest and competent men and women whose first loyalty should be to the country and not to star-struck fans waiting to be seduced. Let us not confuse the celluloid attractions of the box office with the serious demands of the public office.

Neither should we be misled by leaders who take advantage of their public positions to gratify their private ends. Public funds are for public purposes. And the appointment power has been misused and abused. It is being exercised now for electioneering purpose during the period prohibited by the Constitution.

Whatever our mission or status in life, we have a common responsibility as conscientious citizens of this republic. That responsibility is to educate the less endowed among our people on the proper exercise of the precious right of suffrage.

Do you remember the long lines of voters in 1991 waiting to elect Nelson Mandela as their president in the first free election in South Africa? Our candidates may not be as great as that heroic leader but our votes are no less valuable because or in spite of them. The ballot is our priceless birthright and we must use it not for the debasement of our freedom but for its exaltation.

Let us bear this in mind when we go to the polls on May 10. It may be the last time we will ever be able to vote in a free election.

Negative ads

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

AS we get closer to E-day, the mud is flying faster and more furiously, and anyone keeping track of some kind of "Mud Index" will probably see it regularly going off the charts from now on: on a scale of 1 to 10, it would be showing 20.

The main target, naturally, is Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The bad guy even when she was behind, the criticism against her has escalated in direct proportion to her upward trend in the surveys. The latest FPJ TV ad is a case in point. I'm not a couch potato, so I haven't seen many of the candidates' ads. But what struck me is an FPJ commercial which is clearly a negative ad, focusing on the alleged flaws of the opponent rather than the good points of the candidate himself.

Negative ads are the rule rather than the exception in the United States. But this was not the case in the Philippines, until now. The common practice was for candidates to tear each other apart on the campaign trail, but the ads were a different matter altogether.

Having had some experience with regular TV commercials, I know that the Advertising Board, which supervises these things, requires (1) that the information given on the commercial is based on fact rather than on imagination (any assertion has to have empirical backup) and (2) no derogatory mention of the competing brand, even if it is based on fact. The FPJ ad, which features accusatory newspaper headlines, has disregarded these rules, and has gotten away with it.

This can only mean, it seems to me, that the FPJ camp is getting desperate, and is adopting desperate measures—in spite of FPJ's original vow that his campaign would be dignified and above-the-belt, and in spite of claims that FPJ's victory is in the bag, based on the fervor of the people's reception of him in his campaign sorties. This fervor, they say, is a more accurate indicator than the surveys, which are MM (Manipulated by Malacañang).

In fairness to FPJ, all the other candidates who are trailing Ms Macapagal also refuse to accept the survey results and adopt the same barometer for their victory forecasts. That the majority of their audiences are partisan—else why attend the rally in the first place—doesn't seem to matter. Thus, the Philippine election tradition of "I-did-not-lose-in-the-elections-I-lost-in-the-counting" is very much alive and kicking.

An interesting conclusion is provided by a wit who, after monitoring the campaign trail, says: All but one of the candidates are in fact received very enthusiastically. Last Thursday's rally in Makati for Bro. Eddie Villanueva certainly had the rallyists almost at frenzy point. The one exception is not Eddie Gil. It is Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, whose audiences, he avers, have to be prodded to surge around her and shake her hand.

But the "hallowed" Philippine tradition also means that any hope for a trouble-free election aftermath may be dwindling. The sore losers will want their last hurrah, egged on, if not by their wounded pride and vanity, by wannabe dictators waiting in the wings for their golden opportunity. And so, looking at the dark side, there is a very real possibility that preparations are already being made for a Philippine version of Cristalnacht/Kristallnacht.

The bright side is that, maybe, there will be enough politicians who will rise above their self-interest and think of the country's stability instead. Al Gore is a model in that respect, as was Joe de Venecia during the Davide impeachment proceedings.

There is a third way, a middle-of-the-road scenario: negotiations are afoot (my information is that Erap has already been approached to hold back with the rabble-rousing) with quid pro quos to soothe the losers' savage breasts—in which case the politicians gain, and the Filipino people will, as usual, be left holding an empty bag.

But even if elections go smoothly, 2004 may be remembered as a turning point—downwards, unfortunately. Unless the negative ads are stopped, we can all expect campaign advertising to deteriorate to ad hominem arguments: forget the issues, just cut the other person to pieces by innuendo and expert mudslinging every 30 minutes or every hour on radio and TV. It makes my stomach turn.

There is another victim in this mudslinging: respectable survey organizations like Pulse Asia, as well as Trends, the biggest and certainly one of the most respected market research outfits in the Philippines. The constant accusations and attribution of ulterior motives have taken their toll on the credibility of these organizations, whose only fault is that they are the bearer of bad news to those trailing in their surveys.

The irony of it is that politicians who rail at these organizations publicly continue to subscribe privately to the surveys or to commission them, because they know the results are valuable tools in helping them strengthen their campaigns.

Every intelligent politican uses these surveys—even at the district and local levels. There is Berna Romulo Puyat, who is running for the first time (and who should be supported by every person of good will in her congressional district in Quezon City, because she has a soft heart and a hard head, the best combination for any leader); there is reelectionist vice mayor Tabanda of Baguio who tells me that she is leading, but by a small margin, so she is working all the harder. She, too, brings intelligence and commitment to her position.

It is high time that Filipinos grow up, where surveys are concerned.

Why is Roco persisting in his quest?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PRESIDENTIAL candidate Raul Roco's announcement that his US doctor has assured him that he has 10 more years of productive public service is welcome news to all his friends, including myself. Serving the nation can come in many forms and even if the presidency might have already eluded him at this stage, his brilliant mind can continue to serve as fiscalizer for the incoming administration. But a number of people, including some of his friends, have opined that perhaps the better option for him would have been to quit the campaign upon his arrival, since he came home still obviously in pain and doubts linger over his health. In the homestretch of the campaign, it really seems rather sad that Roco may be forcing himself to go on despite his pain and his low survey ratings.

* * *

With just nine days left in the campaign, it's hard to see the current trend toward a GMA victory being reversed. There's a theory that the reason Roco is pushing on, despite the plunge in his ratings during his absence, is that he doesn't want to yield his remaining votes to GMA. Perhaps he's also looking after his senatorial candidates, afraid that the media would ignore them if he were not around. But there may be some truth to the first explanation since there is evidence that the majority of his votes will go to her. The most recent SWS survey showed that his rating plunged from 15 percent in March to 8.4 percent after his departure, and this coincided with the big increase in GMA's rating from 31.4 percent to 35.3 percent.

* * *

On the other hand, the "Philippine Corporate Update Program" survey of CEOs conducted by the Wallace Business Forum over the last four quarters from July 2003 showed that three other candidates shared Roco's votes. In July 2003, Roco was preferred by 38 percent of the respondents compared to GMA's very low 12 percent, but in October 2003, he still had 38 percent behind him compared with her 26. GMA then tied with Roco at 45 percent in February, but last month, after Roco left for the US, GMA took 46 percent while Roco support plunged to 20 percent. It was Panfilo Lacson and Eddie Villanueva who profited in a bigger way: from a score of 10 percent in February 2004, Lacson had 22 percent in April, while Villanueva picked up 11 percent. Only one candidate's rating was consistent: FPJ got a zero in all the four quarters.

* * *

There are reports sweeping the media that the Iglesia ni Cristo has already decided to support the Macapagal-De Castro tandem. Among the senatorial candidates, the INC has reportedly chosen six from K-4 and six from the KNP. But of course, until official announcements are made, this remains mere speculation. But frankly I wouldn't be surprised if the INC would choose K-4, since all that its elders have to do is watch the behavior of the peso and listen to the sentiment of the business community: they rise with every development tending to project a GMA victory. If the INC goes for GMA, one can say it's over but the counting.

* * *

Three prominent archbishops threw their weight behind the crusade for clean and honest elections by calling on the citizens to be vigilant and help prevent cheating in the polls. They aired their appeal at the launch of the National Coalition for Honest and Peaceful Elections. Their call is timely, just like the presence of foreign observers is. However, it should also be noted that the opposition has been conditioning the people to the possibility of cheating by the administration, and interestingly, its warning has escalated in proportion to the plunge in the ratings of FPJ. But as several media colleagues have put it, if the opposition is cheated out of victory they have nobody to blame but themselves, for their two lead candidates threw out the prospect of unity. Unfortunately for the opposition, pride has taken the better of their leaders.

* * *

Moreover, as this columnist has seen during a recent visit to several provinces in the Visayas, the opposition machinery is simply not visible at the grass roots. For all the media hype of Lacson, he barely has any presence in the provinces, while FPJ's KNP does not have candidates in many places. On the other hand, the administration enjoys the support of oftentimes multiple candidates in towns or cities, even as they themselves battle each other ferociously.

In Iloilo City, for instance, the factions of Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez and Senate President Franklin Drilon are locked in a fierce contest even as they both support the President wholeheartedly. Gonzalez's son and political heir, young lawyer and law professor Raul Gonzalez Jr., is challenging 78-year-old former Mayor Mansueto Malabor, who's allied with Drilon, for the lone congressional seat being vacated by his father after three terms. Campaigning for Raul Jr. even harder than his father is his mom, former Rep. Pacita Gonzalez. But her son still looks shy and *elitista* in his first try for a House seat. The good-looking Pacita, a dermatologist, likes to claim credit for Raul Jr.'s lead over the populist Malabor. The deputy speaker predicts a landslide victory in Iloilo for GMA.

* * *

A good friend whom I really would like to plug for the Senate is K-4 senatorial candidate Richard "Wow" Gordon, who sustained the Philippine tourism drive through the difficult years after 9/11 through his imaginative "Wow Philippines" international campaign. I've known Dick, his wife Kate (who is now running for the lone seat of Olongapo City after three terms as mayor) and the Gordon family for many decades now and I think Dick would make an articulate, dedicated and imaginative senator.

Honoring the 'bangus'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I PAID a brief visit to Dagupan last Thursday, accepting an invitation to be a judge at the "Gilon Gilon 2004," a street dancing competition in which Dagupan's 31 barangays compete with each other in staging the best interpretation of the *bangus* harvest, which is what "*gilon gilon*" means. The street dancing competition is spearheaded by the Dagupan "Bangus" Jaycees and is part of the annual Bangus Festival.

Before proceeding to the Astrodome, I met with the members of the Dagupan/Pangasinan chapter of Abanse! Pinay, headed by Lina Tan, executive director of the Liwawa ed Asinan Foundation (Leaf), an NGO and licensed welfare agency of the DSWD.

"Liwawa ed Asinan" means "light in the salt beds," salt being one of Pangasinan's best-known products (aside from *bangus)* from which the province's name is derived. And indeed Leaf brings light to the poor of Pangasinan, addressing the most basic needs of communities, especially of young girls.

One of Leaf's main projects is called "Itaw" (the Pangasinan word for "little girl"), which identifies girls from poor families who show promise but whose parents cannot afford to send them to school. Without timely intervention, these girls could be doomed to early motherhood, perpetuating a cycle of illiteracy and poverty for their own daughters.

Worse, the girls could very well end up in prostitution and falling prey to pimps and traffickers, contributing to the local sex industry that, says Tan, has already been identified as one of the more alarming social problems arising from Dagupan's rapid development.

* * *

"WE need to break this cycle of poverty by investing in the education of the girl-child," Tan told the Women's Feature Service some years back.

The "Itaw" project starts with identifying the girls in need of intervention, with the help of local public school authorities. The identified *itaw* is then provided with an educational grant that covers other expenses related to schooling (since public school education is free) such as school fees and supplies, uniforms, school projects, basic clothing requirements, including underwear, vitamins and medicines, a daily allowance and contingencies.

In addition, volunteers, many of them part of existing Circle for Christ Communities that Lina has helped create as a Bible study leader, pitch in to look after an *itaw's* younger siblings, who are usually the reasons a girl is made to drop out of school, forced to take on the role of "mother" and child-minder while her mother is away earning a living.

These days, the officers and volunteers of Leaf spend much of their time going on door-to-door campaigns for Abanse! Pinay and other local candidates. Lina proudly showed me plastic bins filled with campaign materials as well as snack foods and soft drinks which they load on jeepneys as they make their way around Dagupan and environs. "We might as well enjoy ourselves while we are campaigning!" says Lina, who worked for many years overseeing the Pangasinan archdiocese's social welfare programs. Pangasinan's women and young girls are fortunate she has now chosen them as the primary focus of her life's work.

* * *

THOUGH it took more than three hours from the time the first barangay contingent performed to the moment the winners were announced, judging the "Gilon Gilon" street dancing competition still turned out to be an entertaining experience.

By the time we arrived at the half-way point of the performances, we judges could already predict the sequence of the numbers, which are supposed to depict how the *bangus* are harvested from the famous fish ponds of Dagupan, starting with how the fish fry are fed and cultured, harvested with the use of nets and bamboo poles, and even marketed and cooked. (A wriggling "*bangus*" dancer was even shown "cooking" over an outsized grill!)

I was most entertained by the costumes, which were truly a showcase of Dagupeños' creativity. I never knew there were so many ways to depict *bangus* by way of fashion statements—from fish headwear to sequins-strewn "scales," to gold spray-painted baskets perched on shiny headgear, and even to Las Vegas-style tassles, though I did wonder what specie of *bangus* sported such glittery finery.

Congratulations to the organizers, trainers and performers at the "Gilon Gilon," who braved the sizzling summer sun as they paraded through Dagupan's main street, then went through an even more grueling performance.

* * *

MAN, do the Dagupeños love their *bangus*!

The day after the Gilon Gilon street dancing, various neighborhoods and civic groups were to gather anew at the Astrodome for a foodfest called "1001 Ways to Cook Bangus." Unfortunately, I had to leave for Manila early that morning and so missed this gastronomic feast. With a Pangasinense for a mother, I had grown up enjoying *bangus* in many permutations and preparations and so was eager to discover other ways to enjoy the milkfish. Too bad. Maybe next year?

I can only hope the Bangus Festival goes beyond promoting this delicious fish to creating an awareness among the people of Dagupan and Pangasinan that if the *bangus* are to continue to thrive, then the environment in which they flourish has to be protected. On the way to dinner at Matutina's in Bonuan, Tan pointed to many fish ponds that had been paved over and converted to subdivisions. Sadly, *bangus* don't thrive in subdivisions or commercial developments.

Congratulations to Dagupan Mayor Benjie Lim and Vice Mayor Alvin Fernandez (who bears an uncanny resemblance to Niño Muhlach) for pulling off another successful Bangus Festival!

The Philippines and Iraq

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

PARALLELS between the American invasion of the Philippines in 1898 and last year's invasion of Iraq are striking. By comparing the two events, people here might gain some understanding of what is happening and why it is happening in that distant and very different world.

Both the American war here and the Iraq invasion were hotly contested in the United States before military action was taken. A large segment of the American public opposed the occupation of the Philippines because they believed it violated their Constitution, the country's traditions and the human rights of Filipinos. Mark Twain was a prominent voice in the opposition. More people in Congress opposed the old war than those who opposed the one in Iraq.

At first the American soldiers who landed in Cavite, and the Americans who rolled into Baghdad, were welcomed by the people. They became unpopular in the Philippines when it was clear they had simply replaced the Spanish as colonizers. A long, bloody war of at least six years began during which 250,000 Filipinos died of wounds or of hunger and disease related to the war. A similar struggle may now be underway in Iraq.

Not all Filipinos resisted, just as not every Iraqi resists now. The elite soon made its peace with the Americans here. The resistance was strongest in the provinces around Manila and in parts of the Visayas. The Filipino Catholic clergy proved to be more anti-American than they had been anti Spanish. Many priests were jailed and tortured.

The role of the Muslim clerics in Iraqi politics and the resistance puzzles non-Muslims, but comparisons can be made with the Catholic priests of resistance times here. They, too, played leadership roles, though they didn't seem to be directly involved in the fighting. The administrator of the Cebu Diocese refused to recognize the American government. The parish priest of Balangiga knew of the coming attack on the Americans and perhaps had attended planning meetings, but he left the town a day or so before the attack for two reasons, we are told: to avoid the coming violence, as if he opposed it; and, on the other hand, to remove the occasion of revealing to the people his disapproval of their action, as if he didn't want to stop the attack. His opinion might have been decisive.

The Americans in the Philippines and now in Iraq picture the resisters as insurgents, rebels, lawless savages or terrorists, who represent only a small minority of the population. The pejorative language is propaganda.and one hopes it doesn't close the Americans' own minds. The minority charge is true if the discussion is about actual fighters, but more people support a movement in one form or another than by fighting. In Balangiga, for example, some 400 ordinary citizens attacked the American soldiers. This represented able bodied men from every street and sitio in the town. It is doubtful if anyone in the town of 20,000 people opposed the attack.

How many in Iraq support the goals of the resistance even if they are opposed to the violence? We don't know, but they may constitute the majority.

We are at that stage in Iraq. American popularity has faded, resistance has increased, the heavy hand of the US military is felt for the first time in Fallujah where nearly 700 Iraqis have been reported killed.

Iraqis are in a position similar to that in which Filipinos found themselves in 1902 after the destruction in Samar. They don't want to go back to Saddam, neither do they want the Americans in control, just as the Filipinos didn't want to return to Spain or become a US colony. The young men of Iraq have to decide what they want to do. Do they believe resistance is hopeless in the long run? Do they resolve to postpone the inevitable by fighting on? Will the outcome of such a resistance be even worse for the country? By 1902 Filipinos had largely decided to end the resistance, though it continued in places. What will Iraqis do? It's a grim decision, however a person answers.

America, too, can learn lessons here. It should review what it did in the Philippines from 1898 onward by way of service, education or personal relationships that eventually convinced Filipinos their future with the United States might not altogether be an unhappy one. Americans might come upon clues to doing a better job of nation building in Iraq for the limited time they are there.

I asked Filipinos recently what they remembered fondly of the American years here. They mentioned the Peace Corps, the Thomasites (the thousands of young Americans who came to teach in schools here), public education for all, the scholarships to the United States that educated thousands of professionals, the expressed democratic values of equal justice and free speech, the GI Joes of World War II.

Has the United States done enough of these things in Iraq? And is it pro-poor? It never was here, but surely such a posture would be welcome in Iraq to counter charges it is after the country's oil and other resources.

America can look back a hundred years or it can go back only as far as 1946 when it lowered the American flag at the Luneta and the Philippines was officially free. It wasn't a good time to leave. The country was in ruins after the war. There were enormous problems to be faced in reconstruction, reestablishing the economy, settling class issues between peasants and land owners, management and workers. There was a potential communist insurgency in the works. And yet they left. The GI Joes are still remembered fondly because they freed the country, gave away cigarettes and chocolates and got out as soon as they could.

Whichever period the Americans choose to study, 1902 or 1946, they will have much to learn from the Philippines.

Denis Murphy works with the Urban Poor Associates.

Letters

YOUNG BLOOD

Gabriella S. Martelino

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

WHENEVER I feel the need to go down memory lane, I open a box tucked in the corner of my room. This box, with slightly curled corners and a dusty painted top, documents my middle-school years through letters.

There are letters hidden within envelopes, notes with hasty scribbles, index cards with uniform block letters, and torn notebook paper filled from top to bottom with glittery ink. They all vie for my attention. They are alive, their letters jumping and screaming, with all the exuberance of a fifth grader. They tell brief tales of puppy love and the consequent courtship, of break-ups and make-ups, of unnecessarily cruel teachers and even worse, parents. They tell stories that could have been told over lunch break or even in the corridors between classes. Instead they were written down, eternally preserved in a worn shoe box.

In the summer of 1998, I vacationed at my grandmother's home in San Bruno, California. During my first jet-lagged week, I wrote lengthy e-mails to a friend back home. I was at an appalling stage where I felt the need to clip every word to make it sound like slang: "Went to da mall yezterday and bought the coolezt outfit." "It supah rocked!"

She replied in kind and some of my best moments that vacation were spent in front of the computer, laughing and typing away. Despite the thrill of finding a new message upon logging on, I desperately missed her kitschy sticker-filled letters and even contemplated asking her to rewrite all her e-mails on stationery to be given upon my return.

A similar feeling overwhelmed me when I read one of my father's e-mails a few years later. His choice of words and the rhythms of his sentences were so uniquely his, yet I missed the illegible scrawl that usually accompanied his long, thoughtful correspondence.

I was in high school by the time texting became the rage, and because of it, I feel like I missed an exciting part of life. My mother used to reminisce about the love letters she had received from various suitors, which filled a few balikbayan boxes. My father threw the box away after they married, and she always regretted agreeing to it.

Unfortunately I was never able to follow her advice and preserve the letters given to me by potential suitors because boys my age no longer wrote letters to girls they liked. They texted instead, and the thrill received from reading "i lyk u" was a far cry from the pleasure of reading "I think about you all the time and I wonder if..." scribbled on stationery. They are two very different things indeed!

I liken texting to language massacre. Reading a sentimental message from that impersonal medium is enough to kill the romantic glow that is beginning to kindle. Words that should be full of meaning are presented in uniform font with a sickly back light. This butchers what could have been a beautiful message.

No adept male "texter" ever managed his way into my heart simply because the way he presented his emotions were cold and unromantic.

I was rummaging through boxes of junk last year when I came across old letters exchanged by my mother and her sister. Since my mother passed away five years ago, it is her distinct penmanship that most easily brings me to tears. Her cursive was beautiful, her letters upright and flowing, suggesting how her heart felt with exaggerated curves.

Her handwriting was very similar to her character. When I see her curved letters, I remember her smile. She was always smiling. Her large capital letters look as soft and full as her frame.

Her letters were always written on onionskin paper and at least 10 pages long. They contained every detail of our family's lives: the first professional car wash given to our new Honda, my brother's spectacular home run and the time our cook was caught stealing. My mother could expound on something as mundane as my lost tooth for a page and a half.

As I read one of her many correspondences, I realized she belonged to another age when writing was a more common exercise. I could imagine her in 17th century France corresponding with Madame de Sevigny, writing lengthy passages about the intrigues in court. She would have fit perfectly in that setting where letters were as important and as commonplace as conversation.

I take after her to a lesser degree. No gift is complete without a card; no trinket without a note. After slaving away in penmanship class in the first grade and getting a helper to do my exercises, I now labor over my handwriting until I feel as though my character is reflected through my pen. Yet I will always feel frustration when my words don't curve the same way hers did, and I will always feel satisfaction when they come close.

Letter writing is no less than an art form and the paper chosen for the correspondence serves as its canvas. Cartooned stationery has a youthful appeal and is the perfect partner to a child's scribble. An index card goes hand in hand with a passed-down recipe. Shiny scented pastel pages are always associated with invitations to debuts. Creamy sheets with tasteful borders accentuate the correspondence between two dear friends. I myself relish the anticipation that comes with opening an envelope sealed with wax, which is further heightened by the unfolding of a crisp heavy sheet of classic stationery. While a piece of papyrus can be used for so many purposes, in my opinion it fulfills the most beautiful task when it requests the reader's presence at a wedding.

Letters are meant to be read twice. The first perusal is for reading the text, the second, which should take much longer, is to appreciate the effect of beautiful penmanship as a whole.

Words evoke different meanings when written in print or cursive, in fountain pen or ball pen, in blue or black or rainbow ink. Certain words are lovely when rendered in script. "Grace" is such a word, as is "cappuccino." Others are heightened in print like "war," "bold" and "yeast." The manner in which a word is written holds as much meaning as the word itself.

When these words are strung together in a sentence, which is further strung together in a paragraph, until the whole is tied, by means of appropriate stationery, into a letter, the result is art.

A letter is a complete form of communication. It explains in detail what a conversation cannot. It can express an entire idea or an entire story without once stumbling or searching for a missing word from the speaker's memory. It also has an eloquence that cannot be found in dialogue. When a letter is read and ideas flow out with an emotional, collective, entirely personal message, aesthetics and expression unite. It is the heart and the body, the spiritual and the physical melded into one.

Gabriella S. Martelino, 18, is an incoming Communications Arts sophomore at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Comelec vigilance found wanting

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

THIS refers to your news report, "Miriam rails against TV spending" (PDI, 4/21/04) about the senatorial candidates' overspending on TV ads.

The ban on political advertising was implemented in the '90s to level the playing field among rich and poor candidates. It was in response to the deluge of TV and radio advertisements during the 1987 elections when practically every commercial break on television was filled with political advertisements, especially in the last few weeks of the campaign.

The present law allows political advertising, but it sets limits so as not to allow rich candidates to spend for expensive, precious broadcast air time, to the detriment of deserving candidates who cannot afford to wage a decent advertising campaign.

Unfortunately, election officials do not seem to be monitoring closely the air time bought by each candidate. The least they can do is to inform the public periodically about the spending of candidates for political advertising. Perhaps, they can issue a fortnightly monitoring report on this.

Thanks to the vigilance and audacity of senatorial candidate Miriam Defensor-Santiago for exposing the alleged campaign violations of her party mates and rivals. Prior to this, disqualification cases were filed against some candidates, including President Macapagal-Arroyo. Such efforts are truly laudable.

We have seen the ineptitude of our election officials in punishing candidates resorting to unlawful propaganda. Posters and stickers are ubiquitous all over the country, but not a single candidate has been held accountable. Now, they cannot even seem to monitor a candidate's political advertisements accurately and efficiently.

—SEBASTIAN GOMEZ,
32 Mauban St.,
Biak-na-Bato, Quezon City

Another side of Buhai

THIS is with regard to the series of articles written by Jerry Esplanada on the Buhai housing project in Bulacan province in the INQUIRER's Real Estate section. (PDI, 3/10, 17 and 24/04)

In his articles, Esplanada has been asserting, without basis or a tinge of evidence, that the Buhai project is unsafe and uninhabitable.

First, while we are grateful that Esplanada took time out to interview us on the project, we would like to point out that the critics of the Buhai project he quoted, such as Norzagaray Mayor Feliciano Legaspi and Barangay Bangkal Chair Marcelino Punzal, have no personality whatsoever in the housing project because it is not in their area of responsibility but in another municipality, Doña Remedios Trinidad (DRT). The reason is simply political—Legaspi and his man Punzal have never been supportive of or cooperative with Bulacan Gov. Josefina dela Cruz's administration.

Norzagaray was the original site of the project but Legaspi was imposing such difficult conditions for his cooperation that it became too expensive to set up the housing project there. This made it necessary for Dela Cruz to bypass his municipality and have Buhai in the more supportive, cooperative and corruption-free DRT. Also, it is no secret that Legaspi is the man of a former governor who fielded his son to go against Dela Cruz's vice governor.

Secondly, Esplanada, in the follow-up articles to the series (PDI, 4/6, 20/04), contradicted himself by claiming that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources did not issue environmental clearances for Buhai. Later he said that the agency did issue the clearances but for only 9.9 hectares and not 163 hectares.

The truth is that the DENR gives the environmental clearance certificate only for the area currently in use for a project. Thus, the clearance for the 9.9 hectares only and not for the full 163 hectares. When the next phase of the project is ready to be implemented, another clearance for that area will be applied for. There is no order to stop the project.

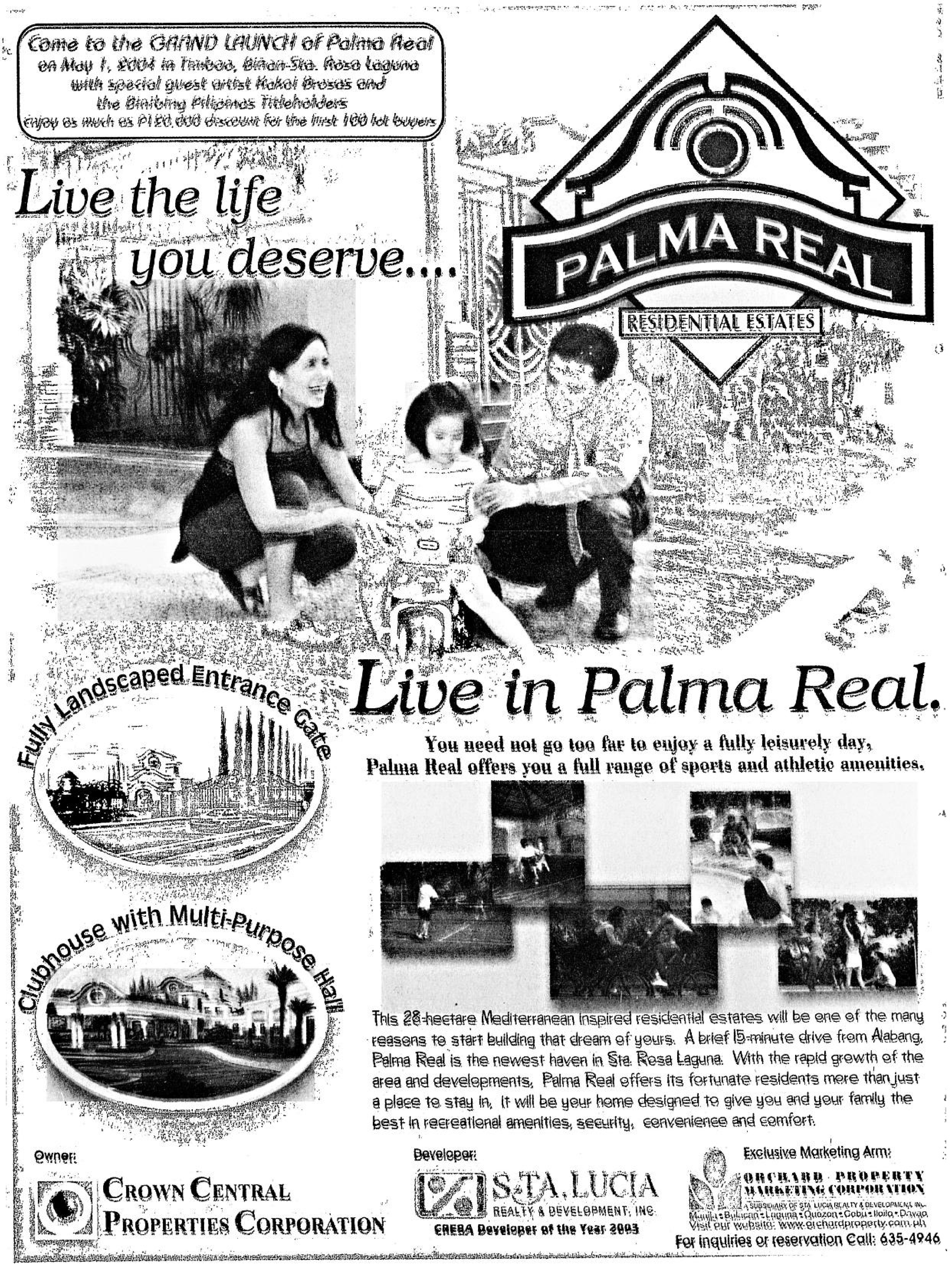
Buhai is not just another mass housing project—it is a joint effort of the private sector and the government of Bulacan which involved years of planning and social preparation so that it becomes a self-sufficient and living community. This was initiated when Dela Cruz was still Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan's vice governor, a project the governor then fully supported. The project's design and philosophy of the successful community development initiatives in the Netherlands were later also adopted by Japan and South Korea.

Perhaps one day the INQUIRER can focus on these aspects of Buhai and not on the lies perpetrated by the crab mentality of damaged politicians.

—DOMINADOR S. TUPAZ JR.,
president, Alto Projekt Asia Inc.,
Buhai Project Proponent,
Rm. 201 Gabriel III Bldg.,
San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center,
Pasig City

I STAND by my stories. I also believe that politics had nothing to do with the negative findings of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources offices like the Environmental Management Bureau and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau. They're just doing their job.

—JERRY ESPLANADA,
PDI reporter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Pro-Gloria caravan claims it gathered 3M signatures

By Anselmo Roque
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

CABANATUAN CITY—A group that supports the candidacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo claimed yesterday that it has already gathered 3 million signatures in support of Ms Macapagal nationwide in a caravan that also featured a Gloria look-alike contest.

The contest may produce a new spokesperson for Ms Macapagal and it will come after May 6 when the nationwide contest, under the auspices of Pro-Gloria, is concluded.

Pro-Gloria, which stands for Progressive Organization for Genuine Leadership, Outstanding Reforms, and Intelligent Action, is carried out through Biyaheng Gloria, a 45-day caravan supporting the candidacy of Ms Macapagal.

Contest organizers said they expect 12 to 14 finalists to vie for the title on May 6 at Plaza Miranda in Quiapo, Manila, said Robert Bastillo, national spokesperson of Biyaheng Gloria.

In a statement, Bastillo said his group was confident it would exceed its target of gathering 3.5 million signatures for Ms Macapagal.

Group members have promised to deliver at least 1 million signatures in Northern Luzon alone until May 6 when the group expects to present the signatures to the President.

In Cabanatuan, Bastillo said, at least 300,000 people have signed up.

"As we toured the provinces, local support came in the form of donations for food and mineral water. All we have were six buses lent by a supporter and the determination to succeed," he said.

The caravan started in Appari, Batanes and Bongao, Tawi-Tawi on March 25 and was brought to various places in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

On the contest, Bastillo said the President will recommend the winner to join her and "act as her spokesperson."

"We are sure that the President will like her look-alike. After all, the selection process is simply not looking for a GMA-clone in looks but in her other qualities as a leader," Bastillo told the INQUIRER here.

He said the contest is not just for fun. He said the winner should articulate what the President has done for the country, her platform as a candidate, what she intends to do, what the country needs and what she can do about them.

Anti-casino dad finds self in limelight over casino trip

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The Baguio casino's political currency in the election campaign has apparently not paid off for its biggest critic.

Widely circulated letters, text messages and local newsletters have accused Councilor Braulio Yaranon, a mayoral candidate and a retired judge, of playing the baccarat tables at the Pagcor Regency Casino, formerly Mimosa Regency Casino, at Clark Field in Pampanga.

According to documents obtained by the INQUIRER, Yaranon's name surfaced on the logbook of the casino at Clark. He supposedly entered the facility on Jan. 28, 2003 to play the slot machines. Other information suggested that he gambled on the baccarat tables.

But the 77-year-old councilor said he has become a victim of black propaganda initiated by the government which, he noted, "is trying to penetrate the market at Camp John Hay."

Yaranon led rallies against City Hall last year for amending an environmental contract with Camp John Hay to allow the operations of a casino there.

Late last year, church leaders, students and lawyers criticized seven councilors for favoring Resolution 248 which voided an earlier resolution that prohibited the developer of Camp John from operating a casino there.

Despite the resolution, the casino proponents have yet to complete a lease arrangement with the Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco) to launch the gaming facility.

Yaranon said he believed the logbook information was leaked out by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), and by the proposed Baguio Casino investors to damage the anti-casino campaign.

He admitted entering a casino in 2001 and again in 2002 during his term as councilor.

Killings of leftists continue

THE KILLINGS of activists continue as two more leaders of militant groups were slain in Quezon and Oriental Mindoro this week.

A fisherfolk leader and his wife were fired at by two unidentified suspects in their house in Silangang Malicboy, Pagbilao, Quezon on Thursday evening, leaving behind the husband dead and his wife seriously wounded.

Rogelio Cortez, 46, vice chair of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas in Quezon, and a campaigner of Bayan Muna suffered multiple bullet wounds in different parts of the body and died on the spot.

His wife, Cristina, 52, Bayan Muna-Pagbilao chapter secretary general, suffered a bullet wound in the cheek.

Anakpawis

On Wednesday evening, another officer of Anakpawis was gunned down by unidentified assailants in Barangay Pachoca, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro.

Mimaropa police director Chief Supt. Alejandro Lapinid said Isaias Manano Jr., 23, general secretary of Anakpawis Party in Oriental Mindoro, and his companion, Guillermo Coz, 47, party vice chair, were on their way home when unidentified assailants waylaid them.

Lapinid said Manano died of bullet wounds in the head and body while Coz was wounded.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo condemned the latest assault against their group and allied organizations. *Marlon Ramos, Delfin Mallari Jr. and Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Raul Roco
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Solon's firm paid ahead of farmers

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ARAYAT, Pampanga—An official of an irrigators' association here assailed the National Irrigation Administration for using the agency's newly released P60-million fund to pay off debts to contractors, including a firm owned by a legislator, instead of settling the land claims of at least 816 farmers.

Efren Maliwat, president of the Federation of Irrigators' Associations in Pampanga, said NIA should have prioritized the farmers who are seeking right-of-way payments for their lands occupied by the Japanese-funded Cong Dadong Dam.

The dam was named after the late President Diosdado Macapagal, father of President Macapagal-Arroyo. The elder Macapagal signed the law that created the NIA in 1963.

Demanding payments

Maliwat said the farmers have been demanding payments since 1997 when the construction of the dam went full blast under the Pampanga Delta Development Project-Irrigation Component (PDDP-IC).

The construction of the P3.4-billion dam, which diverts water of the Rio Chico and Pampanga River to at least 10 eastern agricultural towns in Pampanga, suffered a 20-year delay due to the protests of farmers and the 1991 eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo.

NIA records showed that the project still owes at least P69.3 million to displaced farmers, mostly in Barangay Lacquios here.

Maliwat said the immediate settlement of the farmers' claims would benefit more than 20 irrigators' associations in Pampanga.

Farmers have threatened to destroy the dam's networks of canals while others have actually blocked the flow of water.

Livelihood

"They could also resume their farming activities or find other means of livelihood if they were paid," he said.

Maliwat, citing reports he obtained while helping farmers follow up their claims last week, said the NIA paid P8.4 million to the Lorenzo Construction and Development Corp., a company that the family of Nueva Ecija Rep. Raul Villareal owns; and P37.3 million to the CM Pancho Construction.

The Taisei Kurimoto, one of the main builders of the dam and which is collecting P62.6 million, has not been paid.

NIA Administrator Jesus Emmanuel Paras, reached by phone, confirmed the release of P60 million for the project's unpaid obligations.

He said the payments to the contractors were made because their papers were "processed."

Maliwat said the vouchers for about P44 million in claims were ready. He said he checked these documents with the project office in Sto. Tomas town last week.

"I don't see any reason . . . there should be any delay. The farmers should be prioritized so we irrigators could benefit from the dam's operations," he said.

'Patriots' to set up poll fraud monitors

LUCENA CITY—A non-partisan multi-sectoral Church-based group is putting up an "Anti-Fraud Monitoring System" to ensure clean, honest and credible elections on May 10.

"The monitoring center assumes the set up of the Toldang Tipanan, serving as a tent of prayer, as voter's assistance area and as election monitoring desk," said Fr. Joe Dizon, one of the convenors of Patriots, a network of Church people, teachers, health professionals and other concerned individuals.

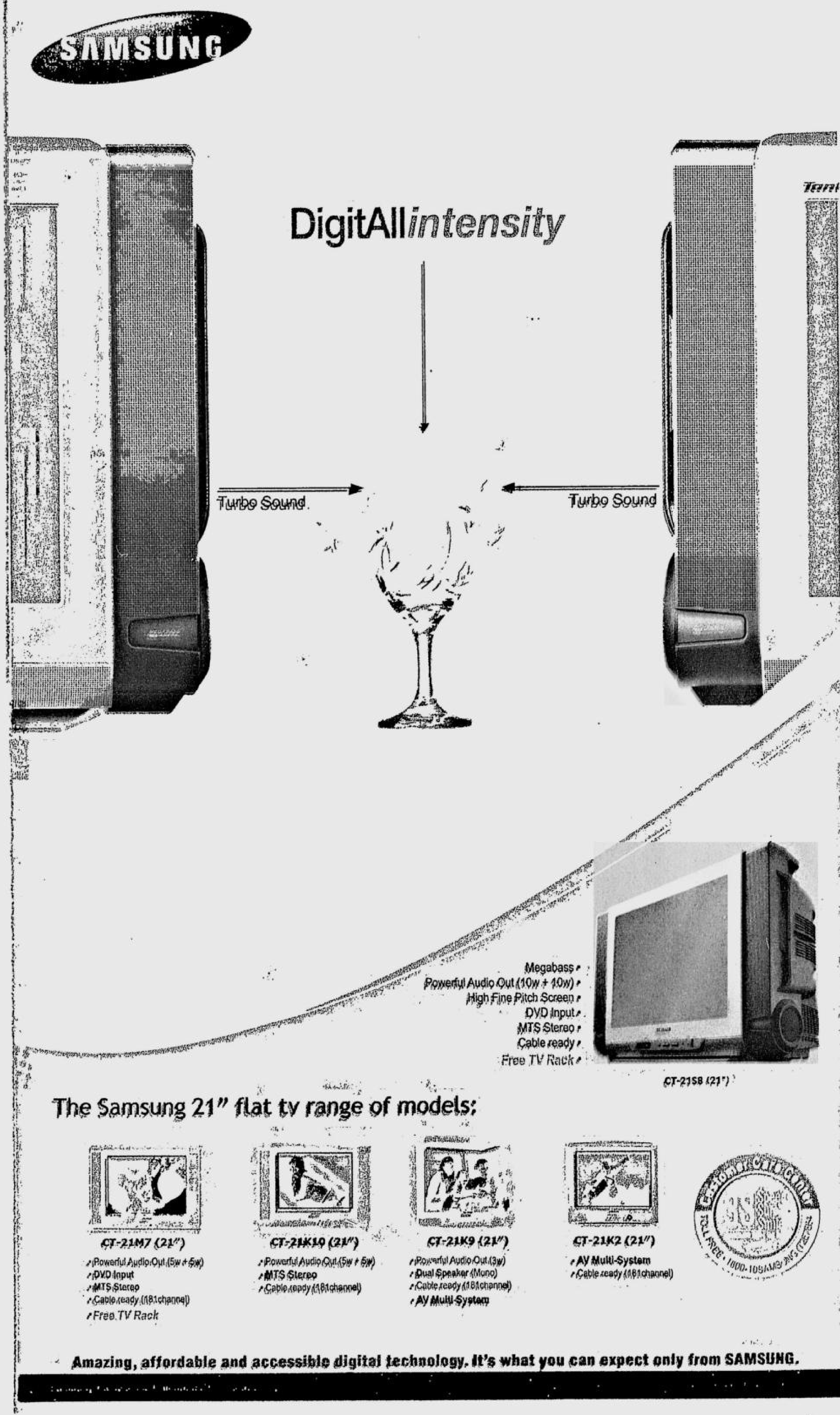
The Patriots' main monitoring center will be at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila.

Satellite-monitoring centers would be set up in areas identified as hot spots in the National Capital Region and the provinces.

Dizon said the ongoing campaign highlights the bankruptcy of politics, personalities and pay-offs.

"It is an elite politics thriving on fraud and violence, damning corruption and the absence of genuine political, economic and social reforms leaving the great majority of our people in debilitating poverty and very low morale," he said.

"This pre-election condition mirrors what shall happen on election day and immediately after it," he said. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*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Transfer of seat of gov't draws more protests

COTABATO CITY—Opposition to the controversial Executive Order No. 304 which caused the transfer of the regional seat of Central Mindanao from here to South Cotabato, is growing.

Yesterday, people from all walks of life joined businessmen and government workers in protesting order by wearing black clothes and armbands.

Under EO 304, regional government agencies here have to relocate to Koronadal City, the new regional seat of Central Mindanao.

"We would like to show that we are not happy with the decision," businessman Pete Marquez said.

Other businessmen and residents also put up streamers assailing the Malacañang order.

Marquez, a ranking official of the Cotabato Muslim-Christian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the President was ill-advised when she signed the order.

The move, he said, has adverse economic, cultural and historical effects on the people of Cotabato and the then Cotabato Empire.

The protesters were also scheduled last night to hold a vigil and light candles along the national highway here.

Marquez said Cotabateños have also started sending notes, through all means of communications, to Ms Macapagal and Cabinet officer for Regional Development and Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima.

The note contained these words: "Transfer of Regional Seat is Unnecessary, Impractical, Not Beneficial, Rescind EO 304 immediately."

Lawyer Rey Pelaez, a resident of Cotabato City, strongly objected to EO 304 claiming that Malacañang failed to consider its impact.

Cotabato City has been the capital of Central Mindanao, even before the split of Cotabato into six provinces, the transfer of Lanao del Sur to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and the transfer of Lanao del Norte and Iligan City to Northern Mindanao.

"Its not more of economic, its more of respect to our culture, history and tradition, as a people and in consideration of the fact that Cotabato City, historically, is the seat of the then Cotabato Empire," Pelaez said.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Groups say minimum wage law not enforced

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Kilusang Mayo Uno and its allied organizations here said big companies in the South Cotabato-Sarangani-General Santos (Socsargen) area have yet to comply with the P180 minimum wage agreed upon several years ago.

"Many businesses are not complying with the minimum wage law," Jose Teruel, KMU-Socsargen spokesperson, said.

Teruel did not identify any company but South Cotabato is home to several multinationals including Dole Philippines.

Despite the failure of many businesses to implement previous wage hikes, Teruel said the militant group would still vigorously campaign for a fresh round of wage increase for workers in the area.

He said among the series of campaigns to press for a P125-wage hike is the protest that would be held here today.

Teruel said KMU is expecting around 10,000 workers to join the protest.

He said based on their study, a family of six in the region needs at least P487 per day to afford basic needs.

Aside from wage increase, he said KMU is also demanding a rollback in prices of gasoline and basic commodities.

In Cagayan de Oro City, the Associated Labor Union—Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) said it has reduced its demand from P115 to P75 per day in consideration of the financial capability of companies to grant wage increases.

Nick Borja, ALU-TUCP spokesperson for Northern Mindanao, said they have already filed a petition at the regional wage board. *Aquiles Zonio and Grace Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

INQUIRER Visayas

E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Fr. Niall O'Brien: Champion of the poor

FR. NIALL O'Brien in jail. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By Carla P. Gomez
Bacolod City

FR. NIALL O'Brien, the Irish missionary from the Society of St. Columban who fought for most of his priestly life for justice for the poor and laborers in Negros Occidental and was jailed during the Marcos regime on trumped-up murder charges, died in Pisa, Italy, at about 12:30 a.m., local time, on Wednesday. He was 65.

O'Brien had been in Italy since December, undergoing experimental treatment for a rare blood disease, according to Fr. Sean Coyle, a fellow Columban priest based in Bacolod City.

"Last Sunday, while trying to rise from his wheelchair, he fell and hit his forehead. He underwent emergency treatment some hours later but lapsed into a coma," Coyle said.

Friends of O'Brien gathered at the Redemptorist Church in Bacolod on Wednesday afternoon where a Mass for his eternal repose was held.

Born in Dublin on Aug. 2, 1939, O'Brien entered the Columban seminary in Ireland in 1957 and was ordained in December, 1963. He came to the Philippines the following year and spent most of the rest of his life in the Diocese of Bacolod.

He also became involved in the "Samaria" (devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary) in 1988 in Kabankalan, Negros Occidental. He established a kibbutz in the mountain area of Tabugon in the town where communities formed cooperatives to earn more from their land produce.

For his work toward empowering the poor during the Marcos years, he was tagged by the military as a communist. He was charged in 1983, along with eight others, for the murder of Kabankalan Mayor Pablo Sola and his bodyguards.

Negros Nine

Between May 5, 1983, and July 3, 1984, O'Brien became known internationally as one of the "Negros Nine"—three priests and six lay Church workers falsely charged with murder.

"They got tremendous support from the late Bishop Antonio Fortich who appointed the three priests—the other two were Australian Columban Fr. Brian Gore and Fr. Vicente Dangan of the Diocese of Bacolod—as chaplains to the old jail in Bacolod where they spent six months after eight months of house arrest," Coyle recalled.

"This was a great blessing for many poor prisoners whose cases had been forgotten as the priests got lawyers to follow up their cases," Coyle said.

O'Brien became a national figure in Ireland at that time because RTE, the Irish national radio and TV network, gave extensive coverage to the case, Coyle added.

The international attention on the Negros Nine forced the Marcos government to drop the charges against the priests in 1984.

The writer

The charges against the Negros Nine were dismissed. O'Brien, on his return to Ireland, wrote his first book, "Seeds of Injustice," an account of their experience and struggle to help the poor.

Later, he wrote "Revolution from the Heart," which tells of his work among the poor in Negros. The book was published in Ireland, United States, and the Philippines in English, Coyle said.

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal launched the book's Philippine edition. The book has since been translated into many languages, including German, Spanish, Korean and Japanese.

"Revolution," according to Coyle, is a "spiritual/theological reflection on the more than 20 years that Father Niall had by then spent in Negros."

He later authored "Island of Tears, Island of Hope," a further reflection on the Church's mission in Negros that highlighted the role of Fortich, for whom O'Brien had great respect, admiration and affection, Coyle added.

O'Brien wrote a weekly column for the Bacolod-based community newspaper Visayan Daily Star, and began Misyon, a magazine published by the Columban Fathers six times a year, in 1988. He remained its editor until September, 2002.

Another major contribution that O'Brien made to the Church was in the translation of liturgical texts into Hiligaynon, Coyle said.

O'Brien, who spoke Hiligaynon like a native, was a chair and later member of the commission set up in the Ilonggo-speaking dioceses to undertake that work.

"He had a passion for language as the expression of a people's culture and rejected the description of the Hiligaynon language, which he spoke fluently, as a dialect," Coyle said.

Active non-violence

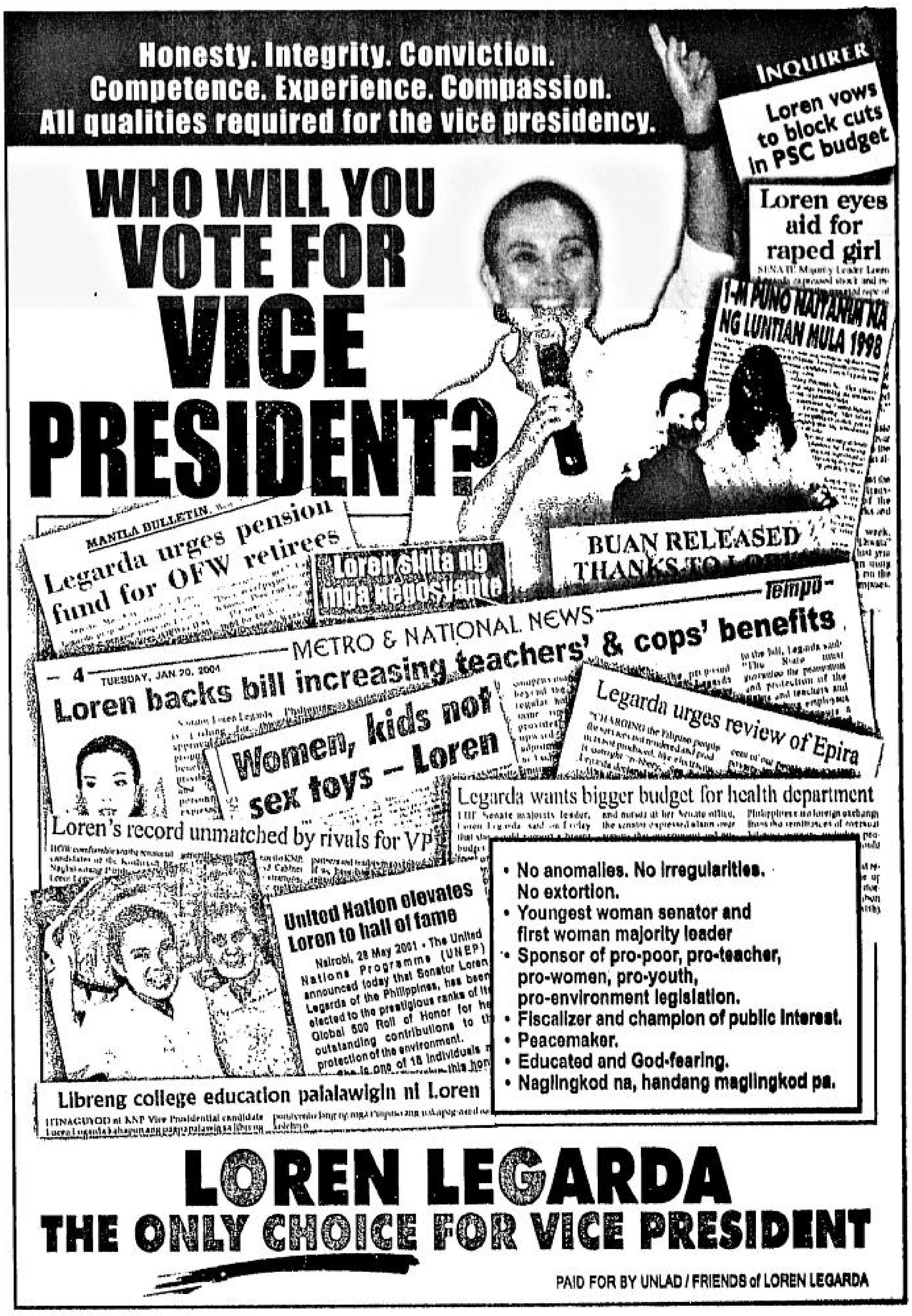
In 1995, O'Brien helped introduce Pax Christi to the Philippines and had served since as national chaplain. Pax Christi International (www.paxchristi.net) is a worldwide Catholic peace movement, Coyle said.

"Because of his experience of violence in Negros, especially during the martial law years, he was passionately devoted to active non-violence, which for him came out of his understanding of the Gospel. He had a wide range of contacts in the peace movement and gave talks at a number of international gatherings," he said of O'Brien.

Before he left for treatment abroad late last year, O'Brien spoke of how much more he wanted to do to help the poor and left funds to help poor sick children with the Visayan Daily Star.

O'Brien is survived by two older brothers, Terry and Fergus, who are both in Ireland.

"May Father Niall, a dedicated missionary, a man full of life and with a gift for words, a man of God, a man of peace, rest in that same peace that is the eternal life that God gives," Coyle said.



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The landowners' vote

LUCID INTERVAL
Rowena V. Guanzon

NEGROS Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon of the Nationalist People's Coalition is a formidable candidate, and in the mind of politicians, to run against him would be a waste of money. He has the reputation of being generous with money, and as a known gambler, certainly knows how to play the odds.

But for Delia "Duds" Locsin, these are not sufficient qualities for governor so she filed her candidacy. It was clear to those who know her and why she is running that hers is a conscience fight.

Duds has a degree in social work from the University of the Philippines and a master's degree. A teacher and peace advocate, she has no money or political party but has many friends. Her platform is good governance, and that includes accountability and transparency in government.

It is no wonder that it takes a woman to defy all odds, even at the risk of not being taken seriously, because most men in the province have many interests to protect. Hers would have been a lonely fight until the governor supported Fernando Poe Jr. after raising President Macapagal-Arroyo's hand a week earlier.

All of a sudden, Duds is not just a quixotic symbol. A vote for her is a vote against Marañon.

GMA's party did not field candidates because it had a coalition with the NPC in the province. It was a convenient alliance, especially since Rafael "Lito" Coscolluela was not inclined to return to politics after serving nine years as governor. But like all relationships of convenience, it was easy to break.

After the deadline for the filing of candidacy, Marañon declared that he was supporting FPJ and along with him, 15 out of 32 mayors. Political turn-

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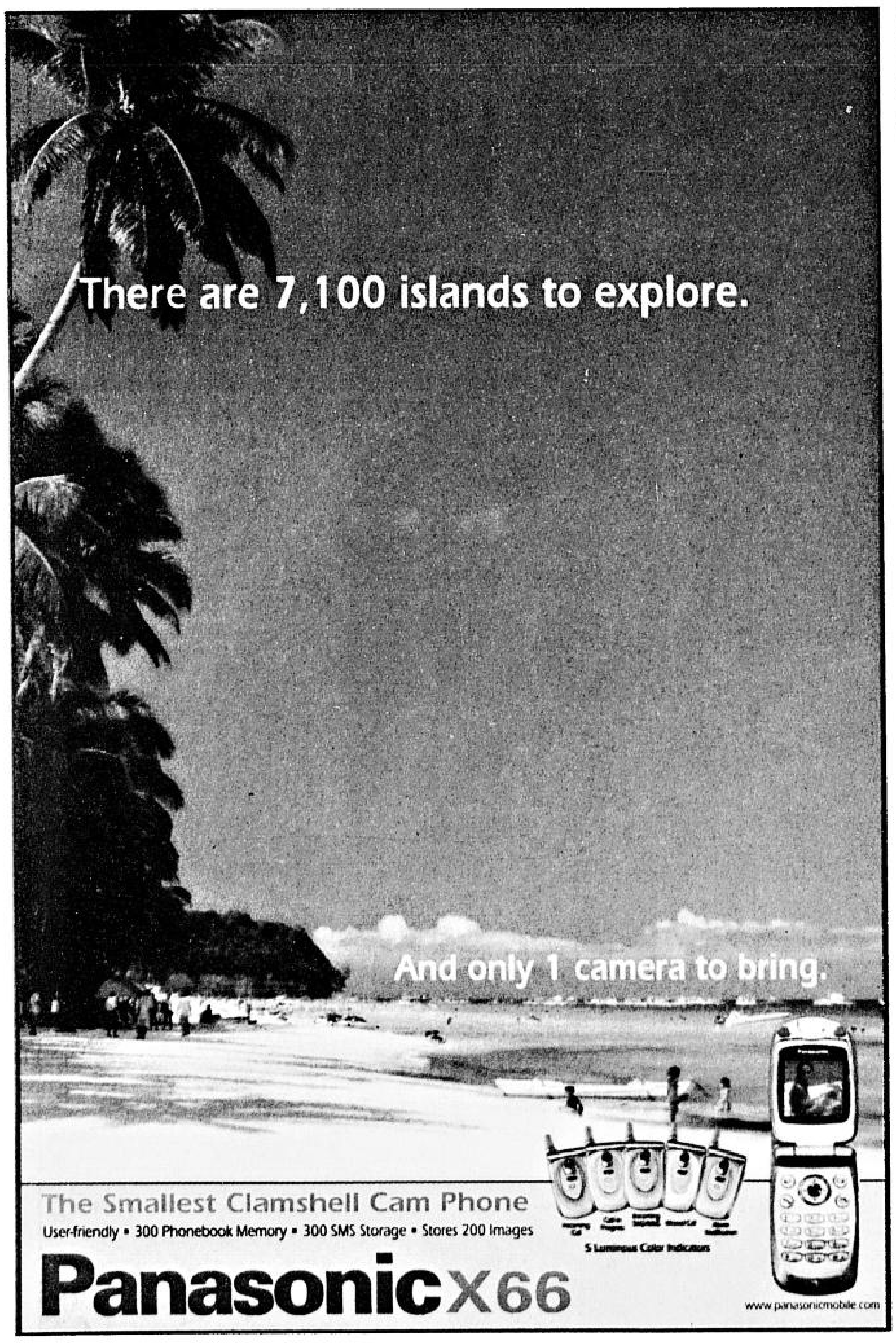
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The landowners' vote

From page A19

abouts are not new, but no one has done it before with such impunity and this upset many people in Negros, from hacienderos to street vendors. The sugar farmers who are supporting GMA are now supporting Duds, if only to stick a pin into Marañon's side.

Now that Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco has declared that he is neutral, and his sons, Congressmen Charlie and Mark and nephew Gilbert Teodoro, are for GMA, the Marañons appear to be on their own. They can do this with very little risk because the son of Rep. Freddie Marañon is running unopposed. However, Danding's neutrality means there is less money for politicians in Negros.

Pressure

Governor Marañon is confident of winning, but he is no longer unopposed. He is pressured to deliver the votes for FPJ, who is not the movie idol of a majority of the Negros voters who are below 35 years old. He has revived the dormant political career of Coscolluela, who is now GMA's main man in the province.

The independent voters and those who are supporting Eddie Villanueva and Raul Roco are voting for Duds who will likewise benefit from Coscolluela's machinery.

But the bulk of the votes in the province still come from the sugar farmers, whose workers generally follow the choices of the landowners, and GMA was smart enough to pay attention to the sugar industry before the campaign period started. Her running mate, however, whose economic advisers are stuck in the '60s and '70s, is still talking about subsidy as the cure for the sugar industry's ills.

Defection

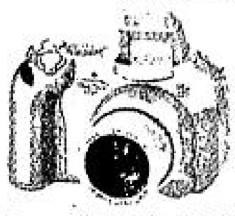
With the recent "defection" of Mayor Anthony Lizares of Talisay City, the governor's house is all the more divided. Board Members Cora Diploma of Cadiz City and Mardi Suplido of Victorias City are for GMA, and in the governor's hometown of Sagay City, his close ally, Mayor Fortunato Javelosa, is reportedly also for GMA.

Marañon will win, but a hundred thousand votes for Duds Locsin is a hundred thousand votes against him. That is not unlikely, now that most sugar planters who are supporting GMA are supporting Duds.

With 1.3 million voters in the province, Duds may not get a significant number, but a vote for her is a political statement. It also means that an opposition in the province has started to galvanize, and Marañon cannot expect to be unopposed in 2007.

But when you see the governor's cheerful face, he doesn't look like he cares.

ERRATUM
This corrects the price and specs in the Canon Supplement last April 2, 2004 in this publication.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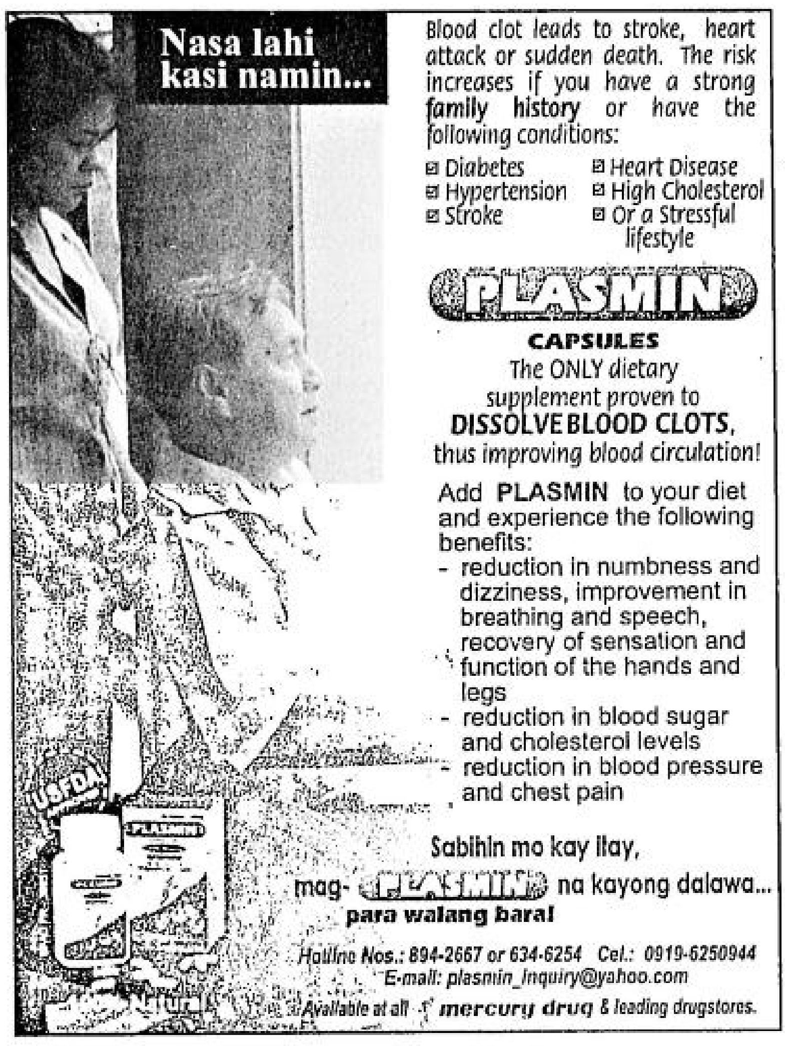

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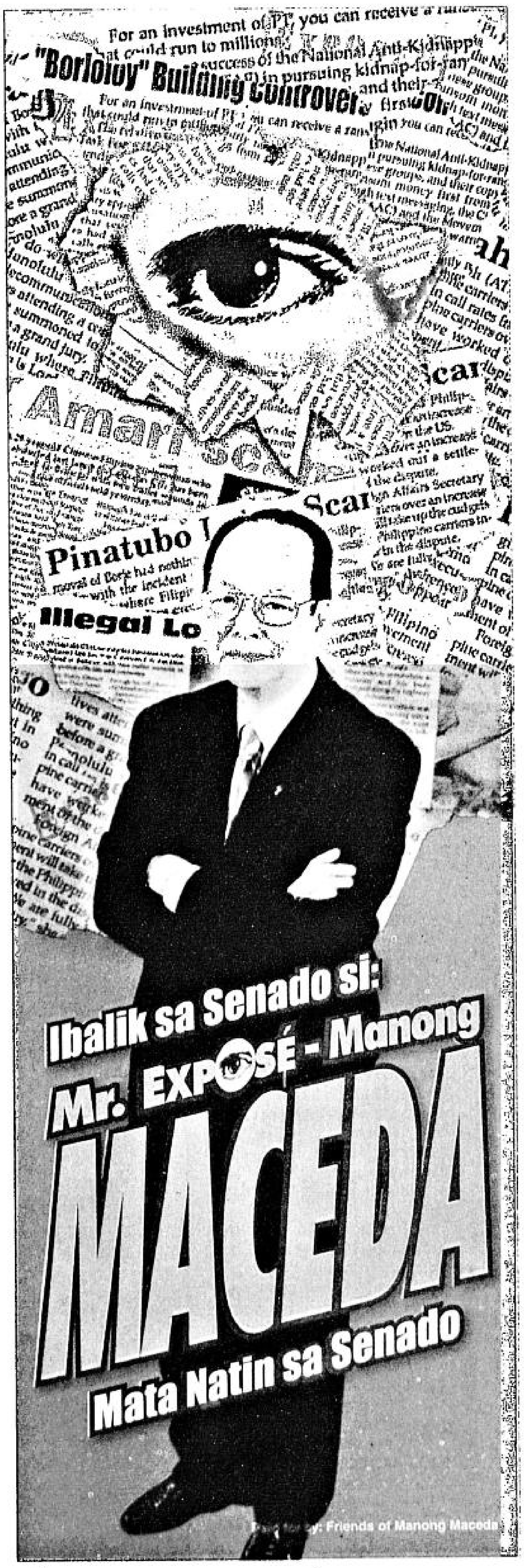
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SC gives go-ahead for religious endorsement

From page A1

religious leaders violated the constitutional provision on the separation of Church and State.

The respondents in the case included the most influential religious leaders like former Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, Iglesia ni Cristo Executive Minister Eraño Manalo, El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde, Ang Dating Daan leader Elisiano Soriano, and evangelist and presidential candidate Bro. Eddie Villanueva.

In a unanimous en banc decision, the high court declared as "void and legally inexistent" the decision of Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Concepcion S. Alarcon-Vergara, citing the substantial technical flaws in her June 2003 ruling.

The high court assailed Vergara for acting "with inexplicable haste, [and] with total ignorance of the law" in deciding the complaint filed by the Social Justice Society questioning the constitutionality of religious leaders endorsing the candidacy of politicians during elections.

It said Vergara's ruling was unconstitutional as it made findings of fact and did not make a categorical ruling on the petition in accordance with the Rules of Court.

The tribunal said Vergara violated the Rules of Court when she issued the ruling without giving the religious leaders a chance to answer the petition concerning their alleged constitutional violations.

The Supreme Court directed the Court Administrator to determine if Vergara could be held administratively liable for issuing a decision that violated the Constitution, the Rules of Court and the court circulars.

The high court also junked the petition of the SJS party-list group, now known as the Advocates and Adherents of Social Justice for School Teachers and Allied Workers, for failing to state a cause of action.

What the SJS had done was merely ask the trial court to answer a hypothetical question, said the tribunal's decision which was penned by Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban.

No mandate

"In effect, it merely sought an advisory opinion, the rendition for which was beyond the [lower] court's constitutional mandate and jurisdiction," it said.

The high court also said that while it considered that the constitutional issue involved was "of paramount interest" to the country, it could not rule on the merits of the case because of the technical shortcomings of Vergara's decision and the SJS petition.

It noted that the issue "was both transcendental in importance and novel in nature since it had never been decided before."

"It did not simply concern a delineation of the separation of Church and State but ran smack into the governance of the country," it said.

But the high court regretted that it was not legally possible for it to take up the question involving a constitutional principle.

"It is a time-honored rule that the constitutionality of a statute will be passed upon only if, and to the extent that, it is directly and necessarily involved in a justiciable controversy and is essential to the protection of the rights of the parties involved," the high court said.

No categorical ruling

Velarde, the El Shaddai leader, had asked the SC to step into the case after Vergara issued her ruling on June 12, 2003.

The court said that Vergara's decision violated the Constitution because she did not state the facts on which she based her decision and did not issue a categorical ruling on the petition.

"Hence, it is void and deemed legally inexistent. Consequently, there is nothing for this court to review, affirm, reverse or even just modify," the tribunal said.

"All in all, during the loosely abbreviated proceedings of the case, the trial court indeed acted with inexplicable haste, with total ignorance of the law—or worse, in cavalier disregard of the rules of procedure and with grave abuse of discretion," it added.

No relief

The high court said that Vergara's statement that religious leaders violated the constitutional provision on the separation of Church and State on page 10 of her 14-page decision could not be deemed as the dispositive portion—that is, a categorical ruling on the petition—and was "just a part of the opinion of the court."

"It does not conclusively declare the rights [or obligations] of the parties to the petition. Neither does it grant any—much less, the proper—relief under the circumstances, as required of a dispositive portion," the tribunal said.

The high court said Vergara failed to state the facts on which she based her decision much less make an assessment or analysis of her decision and her final conclusion.

"What were the factual findings and analysis on which the trial court based its legal findings and conclusions? None were stated or implied. Indeed, the RTC's decision cannot be upheld for its failure to express clearly and distinctly the facts on which it was based. Thus, the trial court clearly transgressed the constitutional directive," it said.

The court also noted that Vergara issued her decision without allowing the churchmen to file their answer to the charge that they violated the Constitution.

The high court also said that Manila RTC should have dismissed the SJS petition outright since the party-list group failed to prove that there is an actual case ripe for judicial determination, "not one that is conjectural or merely anticipatory."

Speculation

It said the party-list group failed to prove that the rights of its members were violated or would be violated by the churchmen's endorsing electoral candidates.

"SJS merely speculated or anticipated without factual moorings that, as religious leaders, [Velarde] and his co-respondents had endorsed or threatened to endorse a candidate or candidates for elective office," the high court said.

"There was no allegation that SJS had suffered or would be deprived of votes due to the acts imputed to [the churchmen]. Neither did it allege that any of its members would be denied the right of suffrage or the privilege to be voted for public office they are seeking," it added.

The high court said it had set the case for oral arguments last April 13 to find out if it it could resolve the case despite the flaws in Vergara's decision and the SJS petition.

It said the counsel for the SJS "utterly failed" to convince the high court that there was enough factual and legal bases for its complaint.

FPJ courts endorsement

Opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., yesterday welcomed the high court decision even as he said that he desired the endorsement of his candidacy by the religious groups.

But he said that until now he has not received any feedback yet on his quest for the endorsement of the influential Iglesia ni Cristo and El Shaddai groups.

Poe and his wife, actress Susan Roces, met with INC members last month.

He also attended a prayer rally of the El Shaddai charismatic group in late March. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

FPJ, Lacson want INC to decide who'll run

From page A1

sit down again last night.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, who is Lacson's campaign manager, reportedly met with INC leaders yesterday to deliver the message of their candidates.

It was not immediately known how the INC responded to their proposal that the INC itself mediate and settle the row on whether it's Poe or Lacson who will run as opposition standard-bearer in the May 10 presidential derby.

An intervention by the INC will ensure the religious sect's backing for the opposition standard-bearer, whether it's Poe or Lacson.

Poe left Dipolog City Thursday night by private plane for Manila immediately after the grand rally there of his party, the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino.

JV Ejercito and Binay, overall campaign manager of the KNP, were supposed to appear in GMA 7's Debate program Thursday night but left before the show could even start.

Debate show hosts Winnie Monsod and Oscar Orbos noticed that JV Ejercito and Binay already had makeup on when they left.

Poe's allies Rep. Francis Escudero, former Congressman Mike Romero and actor Richard Gomez went on with the show.

Escudero, who is Poe's personal spokesperson, explained the absence of JV Ejercito and Binay as one of those typically urgent meetings that crop up during election seasons. He did not elaborate.

On Tuesday, Poe and Lacson met but failed to resolve the issue on who between them will give way to the other.

The two opposition candidates announced Wednesday that they simply agreed to join forces and resources in countering what they suspect to be the administration's plot to conduct massive cheating on May 10.

The INC had supported opposition presidential candidates—businessman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. and Estrada—in the 1992 and 1998 elections, respectively.

The camp of President Macapagal, who had recently overtaken Poe in the latest poll survey, believes that an endorsement by the INC would cement her election victory.

Journalism versus Literature?

From page A1

that intellect was what we call imagination. But with the 17th century came what T.S. Eliot called "dissociation of sensibility."

I will give this a graphic interpretation by picturing the mind of man as a bookstore. If a modern bookstore, it will have some shelves labeled "Fiction" and other shelves labeled "Non-Fiction." But if an ancient bookstore, it would have no such division: All the shelves would simply be labeled "Literature," and side by side of them would be Plato and Cervantes, the Arabian Nights and the Letters of Saint Paul, the Mathematics of Euclid and the Travels of Marco Polo.

In other words, that ancient bookstore represents the natural coexistence of poetry and science in the human mind until the so-called dissociation of sensibility, represented by the division of Literature into Fiction and Non-Fiction. Since then, the split has so worsened that the impending human mind will have to be represented by a bookstore in which a single solitary shelf is labeled "Fiction," and a thousand other shelves are labeled "Non-Fiction."

Information

In other words, the mind of man is no longer synonymous with imagination. The chief wheel now in that intellect is what we call information. We do not want fancies, we want facts. And to modern eyes, literature is mere fancy but journalism is brutal fact. And we want our facts as brutal as possible. We want straight news, we want information.

This is abundantly demonstrated by the sex books of Kinsey and company and by the sex columnists in the dailies who discuss virtually everything (from penis dimensions to vaginal smells). The popularity of the so-called how-to books is another indication, as is the increasing number of desk—or even pocket—encyclopedias. And we know that the intelligentsia would prefer to read a critique of Jose Garcia Villa than read Garcia Villa himself.

But the best proof of this change in sensibility is provided by the popular press. We of the prewar generation were brought up on American magazines like the Saturday Evening Post, the Cosmopolitan, The New Yorker, and the various female home journals.

In prewar days, each issue of these magazines carried at least four or five short stories, a couple of poems, and two serialized novels. So, the bulk of the contents of these magazines was formed by fiction, while the least important part was formed by the non-fiction, consisting of, at most, two articles.

Today the reverse is true. The bulk of the contents of these magazines is now formed by its reportage, its factual articles. Journalism has taken over, literature has almost disappeared. No more poetry or fiction: the popular press is now exclusively devoted to non-fiction.

Before the war, The New Yorker was famous for its cartoons, its poetry and its short stories. Today The New Yorker is celebrated for its reportage, its profiles, its news-interpretive essays. It now limits itself to a single short story per issue, and the poetry it publishes might as well be prose.

Worldwide trend

This trend is even more marked in the Philippines, where the Sunday supplements of the newspapers have completely eliminated fiction and poetry, and "literature" survives only in the few weeklies still publishing verse and short stories.

According to what I hear, this is a worldwide trend. In every country, in every culture, the popular preference is for journalism, not literature. If people are still reading, they read, not for the magic of imagination, but for the profits of information.

And the exceptions that prove this rule are science fiction and the Mills and Boon type of romances. Science fiction is not really a work of imagination: It is practically a news report on technology in progress. Nor is the Mills and Boon type of pop romance a department of fiction; it's actually a continuation of the old magazines called True Confessions or Real Romances, and is an extension of the newspaper columns offering advice to the lovelorn where distressed readers expose their love lives or describe their sex problems.

The sacrament of penance has been transferred to newsprint, and the true priesthood of today is represented by Dr. Kinsey and Mrs. Holmes. The old religion of Church and Scripture has been superseded by the new religion of news coverage and TV prime time.

NICK JOAQUIN: Journalism is upgraded to literature. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

The world 2000 will be the beat of journalism, the territory of non-fiction.

If I wasn't so honest (hey, my name is Candido!) I would claim that I spotted this trend and it's why I shifted from fiction to non-fiction. But actually in this racket you have to play it by ear—and most of the time you're just borne along by the current of events.

Ninoy Aquino

When I did my first non-fiction book I was borne along by the mighty current called Ninoy Aquino. This was in 1971 and Ninoy's purpose was frankly to have usable propaganda for his presidential campaign.

But he said to me: "Nick, you have always wanted to have your say on Philippine history. Well, here's your chance. This need not be just a book about Ninoy Aquino."

"What I want," explained Ninoy, "is a book of the Aquinos of Tarlac—and the history of the Aquinos embraces the Revolution; the American advent; the First, Second, and Third Republics; the Pacific War and its aftermath; and the Roxas, Quirino, Magsaysay, Macapagal and Marcos eras. In other words, the book can be a history of the Philippines from the dawn of *ilustrado* activism in the 1870s to the dawn of youth activism in the 1970s."

That's how Ninoy described what he wanted from me and right away I saw the form of the book I would write, which I would subtitle: "A Study of History as Three Generations," because it's about Ninoy, his father, and grandfather.

But I did not write the book as history in the usual sense of the word. I was no scholar and I certainly did not want a scholarly treatise. I was a newsman and I wanted a journalistic account of those three Aquino generations.

So I went about it in my usual newsmanly way: tape recorder and legwork. I interviewed as many people as I could who had the information I needed. So what I produced was a work of reportage.

But today I don't think that book, "The Aquinos of Tarlac," as reportage or journalism or history or biography. I simply think of it as literature, in the same way (but of course not in the same degree) that Gibbons and Spengler are today simply literature.

When Virginia Woolf was asked in the 1930s about the state of the English novel, she replied that the English novel was being re-created by five men: James Joyce, T.S. Eliot, E.M. Forster, Lytton Strachey, and D.H. Lawrence. Now of these five, only three are novelists. One, T.S. Eliot, was a poet, and another, Lytton Strachey, was a biographer-historian. But in Virginia Woolf's mind, all good writing is literature and there are no barriers between fiction and non-fiction.

Thing of the past

This is becoming the general attitude today. The literary snob's disdaining of journalism is a thing of the past, now that the greatest literary artists are producing reportage. Hemingway, who started out as a news reporter, ended up as foreign correspondent, and four of his books are reportage: "Death in the Afternoon," "The Green Hills of Africa," "The Dangerous Summer," and "A Moveable Feast."

Norman Mailer has done reports on prize fights and election campaigns, while Truman Capote wrote what he called "a non-fiction novel"—"In Cold Blood"—that may outlive his actual fiction. Edmund Wilson was respected as a critic but may be remembered more as reporter of prewar culture and postwar politics.

Following his lead, the top American writers of today, from Gore Vidal to John Updike, have been recorders of the passing scene, covering the global village as cultural and political journalists. In a reversal of the trend, we have fiction masquerading as reportage: I am referring, of course, to E. L. Doctorow and novels of his like "Ragtime."

What all this adds up to is a transfiguration of the image of journalism. The classic image of it survives in a play like "The Front Page," where every reporter is a wisecracking tough guy and every editor would sell his old mother for a scoop.

No more apologies

The image today is no longer so romantic. Journalism has grown up; no more of the old braggadocio. Its fights are more serious now that it is seriously a faith, a freedom, a force. And it is therefore attracting the serious intellectual.

In the old days, a creative writer went into academe to earn his daily bread. Today he goes into journalism—and no more does he have to apologize for doing so. The Philippine press has found room for the brightest talents of Philippine literature, from Gregorio Brillantes to Wilfredo Nolledo to Jose Lacaba to Alfredo Yuson. That's a big enough indication that the Philippine press has deepened and widened and matured, if it can accommodate such wild, wild geniuses!

So, the question of "Journalism versus Literature?" no longer has to be asked. The old feud is over and the two rivals are more or less on even terms. If journalism has been upgraded to literature, literature is being reinvented as a species of reportage.

In the some five decades I have been in journalism, those are the developments that I find most moving—because my own writing career has moved in the same direction: from fiction to reportage, and from reportage to non-fiction as literature.

Even the Magsaysay Award just given me is a coming full circle. After some five decades of reporting news, I find myself, in a modest way, making news.

15 minutes of celebrity

During the time of award-winning, the real newsmakers were Sarah Balabagan and Onyok Velasco—and I have to admit I felt proud that even if only for a moment I was almost right up there with Onyok and Sarah. Not to mention Marimar. *Sikat, ha!*

Not that I coveted the spotlight; I do not. And this ain't modesty. I'm just being practical. You see, I ride bus and jeepney, I eat at *turo-turo*, I drink at *kanto* beer joints. And you can't do that if you have a spotlight trained on you, making your face recognizable even by strangers.

However, the good thing about the celebrity spotlight is that it is so fickle it never stays long. The longest it stays on any one person is 15 minutes, or so the saying goes. And I know that even as I stand here to be applauded, that spotlight is already moving on, moving away, is already going ... going ... gone!

So now I have had my 15 minutes of celebrity. And what a relief it is over.

Good-bye, good-bye! (And good riddance.)

Thank you. I have spoken.

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Pinay DH wins US case for $30,000 in wages

By Rita Villadiego
Contributor

NEW YORK—Only a few months ago, Evelyn Aguilar was looking overworked and harassed. She was working as a nanny and a housekeeper in New Jersey and was being paid only $1.60 per hour, which is way below the minimum wage of $5.15 per hour in the United States.

Last Sunday, however, Aguilar was all smiles. The US District Court in New Jersey had determined that she was being paid a salary that was below the minimum wage and ordered her former employer to pay her $30,000 (P1.6 million) in back wages.

She was paid a lump sum of $15,000 last Sunday and will get $1,500 each month for the next six months.

"I feel such relief. I've learned how to defend my rights," Aguilar said in an interview.

She said she would use the money to pay for the education of her two children back in the Philippines.

Aguilar worked for almost two years as a domestic helper for Pui Yin Ma and Sau Chum Ho. She took care of the couple's two small children, changing, dressing, bathing, feeding and entertaining them. She also did the housekeeping, laundry, cleaning, ironing, grocery shopping, meal preparation and car washing for the US-based Chinese family.

The couple initially offered $10,000 to settle the case, but Aguilar knew she deserved more and decided to pursue the case.

"I had always bowed down to them before. They never believed I would fight," she said.

Aguilar worked for the couple for a total of seven years. Five years of that were spent working in Hong Kong for the same couple who eventually took her to the United States.

No raise for 7 years

"I asked for a raise several times during the seven years, but they always told me, 'If we're satisfied with your work, we'll give you an increase.' But they never did," she said.

When Aguilar met members of the Damayan Migrant Workers Association, an organization of Filipino workers in the New York and New Jersey area, she was told that under the law she was owed a great deal in unpaid wages.

She asked her employers to at least pay her the minimum wage but they refused.

Aguilar decided to leave the job and, with the assistance of Damayan and students at Seton Hall Law School, filed a complaint with the New Jersey court in October 2003.

"Many members of our community don't know that the minimum wage is $5.15 per hour and the overtime law states that after 40 hours of work, you are required to be paid the equivalent of one hour and a half. This is the law. And it applies to all regardless of immigration status," said Linda Abad, the Damayan health and legal case worker.

Celebrating victory

At a domestic workers' conference in the City University of New York graduate school last Sunday, Filipino nannies and housekeepers celebrated their victories against abusive employers. They sang songs, attended workshops and participated in discussions on their basic working rights.

In the past two years, Damayan has successfully advocated for 11 Filipino domestic workers who won a total of $61,000 in unpaid wages. Many of the workers who won were undocumented.

"Evelyn's case is not unusual," said Ana Liza Caballes, the Damayan coordinator.

"With the terrible economic conditions in the Philippines and high unemployment here, many Filipino immigrants feel that they owe their employers a debt of gratitude just for having a job. But the fact is, we immigrants do the worst and lowest-paying jobs—the ones that most US citizens won't do. And we're virtually keeping the Philippine economy afloat with $8 billion in remittances annually. We deserve to be paid adequately for our work and to be treated with respect," Caballes said.

Aguilar said she would advise anyone who finds herself in a similar situation to "fight for your rights."

RP driver killed in Iraq attack

From page A1

since its members are actively involved in ensuring the safety and security of our nationals."

Foreign Secretary Delia Albert, citing a report from Philippine charge d'affaires to Baghdad Eric Endaya, said that at around 9 a.m. in Iraq (2 p.m. in Manila) on Wednesday, suspected insurgents armed with rocket-propelled grenades and AK-47 rifles opened fire on the convoy, killing Reyes and the two other men on the spot.

The victims were taken in a military helicopter to a nearby military hospital, but were declared dead on arrival. The bodies were later brought to Kuwait.

Another driver of unknown nationality survived the ambush.

The convoy was heading back to Kuwait after delivering military supplies to Camp Anaconda in Balad 120 km north of Baghdad. It is not known if the trucks had a military escort at the time of the attack.

'Regrettable'

Ms Macapagal said the incident was "regrettable" especially since the Philippine government, through the inter-agency Iraq Team led by Ambassador Roy Cimatu, had been warning Filipinos in Iraq to "keep out of harm's way by staying put in their camps for the time being" and to "exercise caution and avoid straying out to dangerous zones."

"We will make sure that the body will be shipped home forthwith, and the family assisted," she said.

Secretary Albert said she had spoken by phone with Reyes' widow and relayed the condolences of the President and the DFA. She said the widow and a son would be flown to Kuwait soon to claim the body.

But Ms Macapagal declared that her administration's policy vis a vis Iraq would not change: "We stand with the world against terrorism and such terrorist attacks. Our commitment to democracy and reconstruction in Iraq is undiminished."

She also said Filipinos had been risking being "in the line of fire to help the Iraqi people rebuild their nation.

3,000 civilians

At least 3,000 Filipino civilians are employed by private contractors engaged by the US-led occupation force in Iraq. A Filipino contingent of 43 soldiers and eight policemen forms part of the occupation force.

The President, who enjoys a slim lead over film idol Fernando Poe Jr. ahead of the May 10 elections, has rejected opposition calls to bring home the Filipino contingent.

She has, however, suspended the dispatch of reinforcements.

Ms Macapagal had earlier ordered Cimatu's team to draw up a hazard map that would inform Filipinos in Iraq of the risk areas and hazardous situations that they should avoid, and to track down all Filipinos in that country for their inclusion in the Philippine government's contingency plans.

Cimatu visited Baghdad two weeks ago to inspect the conditions of the Filipinos in Iraq.

He had said that while Filipinos working in the big camps of the US-led occupation force were relatively safe, drivers plying routes within Iraq or to and from nearby countries such as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Turkey were in danger of attacks.

About 50 Filipino workers in Camps Freedom and Glory in the northern city of Mosul, including two who were injured in insurgent attacks early last month, returned to Manila on Tuesday.

They expressed concern for their personal safety and said their recruiter had not told them that they would be working in Iraq.

Guingona calls for review

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. said the Philippine government had "done its part signaling to the world" that it was supporting the United States' proclaimed war on terror.

"It is now time to review the reasons why our troops are in Iraq," Guingona said, adding that after the capture of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in the war that had devastated wide areas of that country and killed thousands of civilians, "Iraq and its people must be given back their sovereignty, dignity and freedom."

"The rebuilding of Iraq must now begin, side by side with the restoration of the political and economic rights of Iraqis," the Vice President told reporters.

"It is time to review the reasons for the deployment of the Philippine police and military contingent in Iraq on the basis of our own national interest," he said.

Guingona also warned that the Philippines was "at risk of possible reprisal" from extremist groups sympathetic to Iraqis now waging a guerrilla war against the continued US-led occupation of their country.

Tribute

In a statement, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., vice chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security and member of the committee on foreign relations, said of Reyes: "He represented all our countrymen who continually risk their lives in war-torn countries abroad to earn a living and support their families in the Philippines."

Magsaysay called on the Macapagal administration to secure all Filipinos in Iraq and prepare for their repatriation. *With reports from AFP; Christine O. Avendaño*

FPJ: Fatality no reason to pull troops out of Iraq

By Christine O. Avendaño

IT APPEARS that presidential bet Fernando Poe Jr. supports the US war against terrorism.

Despite the death of a Filipino truck driver in US-occupied Iraq, Poe was not for the pullout of the Philippine contingent there.

Asked about his position on the ongoing conflict in US-occupied Iraq, Poe told reporters yesterday that the government should maintain the Philippine contingent there.

He stressed that no additional troops should be sent by the government.

"*Sa ngayon doon muna dahil pag umalis tayo roon para tayong sumu*-surrender *sa mga ginagawa ng* terrorist (We shouldn't pull out now because it would look like we're surrendering to the terrorists)," Poe told reporters before starting a four-hour motorcade around Cavite, the home province and bailiwick of fellow opposition presidential bet Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Asked what overseas Filipino workers in Iraq should do amid the ongoing conflict, Poe said since they were there for employment, it's really their decision if they want to come home or not.

But if conditions worsen in Iraq, it's a different story.

Pag safety *nila nalagay sa alanganin, saka na lamang tayo kumilos.* Dapat umuwi ang mga OFWs (If their safety is at stake, then we should move. Our OFWs should come home)," he stressed.

It was the first time Poe gave his position on the ongoing conflict in US-occupied Iraq.

Roco, Bro. Eddie meet …

From page A1

lanueva would never slide down. At best Bangon Pilipinas, could only unite with Roco's party against electoral fraud."

Preferring to speak in riddles and quoting Biblical passages, Roco announced at a hastily called press conference later that he had asked the help of Villanueva, also the spiritual leader of the Jesus Is Lord Fellowship, "to be my Joseph, to be my Daniel."

Best choice

Roco did not say whether Villanueva had agreed to slide down, but when told that Villanueva had been saying the former senator was the best choice for president, Roco said: "He had said that many times."

He said the discussion revolved around the need to change the present leadership and replace it with a "moral regime," and reiterated that he had not asked Villanueva to run as his vice presidential candidate. " No such material positions have been discussed. We have transcended that."

Maintaining that he was not backing out of the race, Roco said his party's organizational work had been completed. "Let me just say that in the Alyansa, all the watchers' forms, all the designations, all the sample ballots are out."

As to the possible adoption of Alyansa's seven senatorial candidates by Bangon Pilipinas, he said: "We did not talk about material things. That is left to the organization. What is important is that we must focus in reestablishing a moral regime. That is a common denominator and common goal."

Roco could only say that both of them agreed to pray on the "preparation" for the change of leadership after the May 10 polls. "We prayed together and we will continue praying together and we accepted that principle. And it will continue."

Going biblical

"We seek his help. We did not talk mundane matters. We did not talk positions. We seek the help of everybody.

I sought his help as my Joseph, if possible also as my Daniel. There are no positions involved. You will soon enough hear the final product of our own prayers and reflections," he stressed.

Added Roco: "Who is better prepared? Look for Daniel. Joseph. The combination of the talents of the people when the people need help. Who will lead us out of the desert? Who will cross the Jordan? The Philippines has to make a hard decision. Let us be guided and discern (well)."

Lorna Kapunan, secretary general of Aksyon Demokratiko—Roco's party which coalesced with Reporma and Promdi to form Alyansa—explained that in quoting Luke 14, Roco was talking about preparation for governance. "Roco sees himself as Moses training a possible Joshua because that's what the Book of Luke is all about."

But a source from Villanueva's camp said Moses never made it to the Promised Land, and it was Joshua who led the people there. "It's Roco who needs us because we have Joshua's army. We have the people to man the precincts," the source added.

'Ambiguous words'

Calling Villanueva a "brother and friend," Roco vowed to "strive to bring that about, whatever the final results, whatever the final announcements."

"Those among you who are familiar with the Bible will know what I am referring to. Joseph was the youngest son of Jacob. They wanted to kill him. He was found. He is the Joseph of the many colored coat, and he built the foundations of the chosen people's staying in Egypt. Daniel was the prophet and adviser who was thrown to the lions, but even the lions would not touch him."

Roco said he was using ambiguous words at the moment because "all opposition candidates will be striving to watch. You don't have to discuss something you have to do."

"They're both praying for discernment on who is most prepared between the two of them," said Kapunan, adding she believes Villanueva was just looking for a sign. "They both have open minds, so they agreed to pray together (before making any move)," said Kapunan. "There are open lines between them. And both agreed to pray for discernment on what is good for the country. It opens a whole range of possibilities."

Roco said his sudden preference for spiritual matters was not brought about by his successful bout with prostate cancer, or his meeting with Villanueva, a Christian pastor.

Health issue

"The health issue is done already. Let the people judge that. All the facts about that are out already. Others (came up with) slanted stories. My opponents would say everything. Let the people judge that. What is important is that we are seeking change. But because of blessings from God, people have become conscious of mortality; people have become conscious of the moral regime. Let us not waste that gift."

Kapunan later told reporters that the Lawyers for Roco would sue a Philippine Star reporter and the newspaper's entire editorial board for running a story claiming that Roco had bone cancer. "The Roco camp will sue (for) any malicious distortion of the truth."

Roco said there was need for another one-on-one meeting with Villanueva, saying ""prayer does not require a place, prayer does not require being together. But we will pray using the same reference points."

Expounding on the "preparation," Roco said their discussion was done in the context of Luke 14:25-35, which speaks of preparation for building a tower, laying a foundation and going to war against another king.

Roco said he and Villanueva talked about the condition of the nation "which is so sick, we need more than 6, maybe 12, maybe 18 years to rebuild."

Roco said his running-mate, Herminio Aquino, went yesterday to Olongapo City to campaign, while the Alyansa senatorial candidates were doing "organization work" in Mindanao, Zambales and Pangasinan. "The organizational work is continuing, (and) the alliance-building with the sectoral parties," he added.

With a report from Blanche Rivera

"STOP THE LIES"

The truth about OWWA-Medicare and PhilHealth

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) has not integrated the OWWA Medicare Program and not a single centavo has been received from OWWA, specifically the alleged Php 530.3 Million OWWA Medicare fund.

This is attested by the certification issued by PhilHealth's Chief Accountant and Finance Manager and which was duly noted by the Resident Auditor of the Commission on Audit (COA).

Further, PhilHealth asserts that the eventual transfer will be in accordance with PhilHealth's mandate to provide health insurance coverage for all citizens of the Philippines as provided for by RA 7875. In fact, the transfer will give Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) the chance to avail themselves of post-retirement benefit coverage, a feature not present in the current OWWA Medicare program, subject to existing rules. Furthermore, any transfer of funds to PhilHealth cannot be used for purposes other than for the benefit expenditures, cost of administration, and information, education and communication (IEC) activities geared toward raising awareness and information on benefit availment of members of the National Health Insurance Program.

PhilHealth remains committed to providing all Filipinos access to quality health care services, especially during times of medical emergencies.

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The new chief is very corrupt

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

BEFORE an ex-politician is appointed to an important government agency, the appointing authority should think twice—nay 20 times 20—if he deserves the position. The former politician might bring his corrupt ways to that agency.

A former Central Luzon politician was recently appointed to a government transport agency. No sooner has he warmed his seat than he started demanding 20 percent "commissions" from private firms dealing with his agency.

This politician, apparently used to getting cuts from his pork barrel projects before, didn't even spare the supplier of distilled water from his corrupt ways. *Pati ang supplier ng tubig hindi pinatawad ni kolokoy.*

He demands a 20 percent commission from the supplier of the distilled water on its monthly bill to the agency.

And you know how much the company is being billed by the distilled water supplier? Would you believe, P50,000 a month! That's a P10,000 cut.

* * *

The ex-politician is also demanding a 20 percent cut from the suppliers of stationeries and from the security agencies hired by the transport body before he was appointed to head it.

The chief of one of the security agencies protested to this ex-politician and they had a big argument. The security agency chief said he would report the ex-politician to the President. The transport chief told him to go ahead.

The ex-politician is reportedly a relative of the President. According to his subordinates and suppliers who deal with the agency, the ex-politician has been dropping the name of the President at every turn.

* * *

And now comes the big part of the corrupt ways of this former politician turned transport agency chief: He is reportedly demanding $2 million (repeat, $2 million) from the Japanese firms that will undertake the line expansion of the agency.

The project cost is P11 billion. And the Japanese contractors, wise to the ways of corruption in almost all Asian countries, have already "settled" all the concerned government officials. In Tagalog, *inayos na silang lahat.*

But this Johnny-come-lately wants his share as the new chief of the transport agency.

* * *

I've known this since the days when both of us frequented Cafe de Malate in Ermita, Manila. When we had a chance meeting at a hotel in Makati a day after his appointment, he called me "classmate" because we went to the same university, the University of Cafe de Malate.

I congratulated him for his new position.

Days after he took over, rumors spread around about his corrupt ways. The rumors persist to this day.

* * *

Then, the small private contractors who deal with the transport agency approached me. One by one, they complained about the demand of 20 percent commission on the monthly bills paid by the agency on the suppliers.

Yesterday, the representative of the Japanese contractors that will undertake the agency's expansion project confirmed to me the corruption by the new leadership.

The complainants told me that the guy this former politician replaced was also corrupt, but the new chief is 100 times more corrupt.

'BATTERED GIRL' CASE

Mom, daughter face frustrated slay raps

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has paved the way for a mother and her daughter to be charged with frustrated murder for allegedly hurting a girl and causing her severe injuries 14 years ago.

In an April 16, 2004 resolution, Acting Justice Secretary Merceditas Gutierrez denied the motion for reconsideration filed by Martha Teresita Reyes and Maria Theresa Reyes-Gallardo questioning an earlier resolution signed by former DOJ secretary Simeon Datumanong upgrading the charges against them from frustrated homicide to frustrated murder.

Gutierrez said in her resolution that she sees no reason to reverse the earlier decision signed by her predecessor.

Accused

Reyes and Gallardo have been accused of hurting then 4-year-old Girlie Garcia in February 1989 and causing her severe injuries that, among others, impaired her mental functioning and left her unable to walk.

The charges were filed by Girlie's father, Delfin Garcia, an American citizen who entrusted Girlie under Reyes' care when he left for the United States in 1986.

At that time, Reyes and Garcia had a relationship. Girlie is Garcia's daughter with another woman.

Both Reyes and Gallardo, in their defense, have denied the accusations against them, saying they had treated the young girl well and that even as a child, Girlie had already suffered from frequent seizures.

In Datumanong's October 2003 resolution, it was established that Girlie, while under Reyes' care, was allegedly scolded by Reyes for losing a toothbrush and had brought the child to a room where the latter was soon heard crying.

Unconscious

Later, the maid was called to the room where she found the child unconscious. Girlie failed to fully wake up and instead would only moan and move her hands and feet, and was later brought to a hospital.

The resolution also says that medical records obtained showed that in 1989, Girlie, under a different name, had been treated by Dr. Edmundo Saniel, who said the child had suffered brain damage due to head trauma. The injuries also resulted in partial paralysis, epilepsy and abnormal mental status.

Battered child syndrome

The resolution also said the respondents had neither "given clear nor credible explanation" on how their ward had sustained such severe injuries.

The attending physician at the Medical City Hospital had also written in the girl's 1989 records that she suffered from the "Battered child syndrome" and that she showed fear whenever Reyes was around.

Reyes also claimed she had asked that Girlie be brought to a hospital on that day when informed by her daughter by telephone that Girlie was having another seizure. Girlie was brought to Medical City.

Reyes also said Girlie's nanny would tell her that the child regularly suffered from seizures.

Unperturbed

She also said that when she advised Garcia of his daughter's condition, he allegedly seemed unperturbed and told her not to worry about the seizures.

Reyes also said Garcia lived off her money and defrauded her of P15 million, and that the two of them had a fight when she refused to lend him $200,000.

In Datumanong's resolution, it was also cited that Reyes had looked after the care of the child.

New twist in battered wife case

MELISSA Martel, wife of wealthy mall scion Robert Martel, yesterday sought temporary and permanent protection order against her husband from the Makati Regional Trial Court, the first of its kind filed in the country since the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004 came into effect last March.

"This is going to be a test case because it is the first of its kind filed in the country," Lourdes Cruz-Matters, lawyer of Melissa, said.

Lawyer Howard Calleja also said that the case is "trailblazing in favor of battered women."

Calleja said Rowena Guanzon, who was one of the lawyers who assisted in drafting the Act, is among Melissa's legal counsel.

According to the petition, Martel "has committed and continues to commit acts of violence against Melissa and their three children in absolute violation of the Act."

The petition also said that Martel "has beaten Melissa senseless, threatened and poked her with a gun, verbally abused, maligned, ridiculed, and humiliated her in front of their children, family members, and employees."

"The respondent's cruelty towards the petitioner took on monstrous proportions, when on Aug. 26, 2003, in a fit of rage to kill, and in the presence of their daughter Nikki, (Martel) decidedly shot (Melissa) in the abdomen at point-blank range..., " the petition said.

Melissa, in her petition, asked the court to direct her husband to stay away from her, her immediate family and household members and prohibit Martel from using or possessing any firearm and deadly weapon. *Margaux Ortiz*

Jeep driver held up by own helper

JEEPNEY driver Johnny Handonero got the surprise of his life Thursday night when his own "conductor" held him up.

Jessie Andal, of Malanday, Marikina, told police he pulled the heist so he could buy shabu.

Police said Handonero was cruising along a major road in Parang, Marikina, at around 10 p.m. on Thursday when Andal, who had been his on-and-off conductor, pulled out a knife and announced the holdup.

Andal then got the P170 bills from the money box in front of Handonero, got off, and fled on board another jeepney.

Handonero gave chase and asked for police help. Police later collared Andal.
Luige del Puerto

Heavy traffic seen today

MALL sales and Labor Day rallies are expected to clog traffic in some areas in the metropolis today.

Traffic gridlocks are expected in the Ortigas area, where SM Megamall and Robinson's Galleria are located.

The Metro Manila Development Authority said motorists should also avoid Lawton and Mendiola in Manila, where traffic is expected to be heavy due to rallies. *Margaux Ortiz*

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	Present Rate	*BEST Rate
STANDARD	P 1,600.00	P 1,300.00Net

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BEACH RESORT

	Present Rate	*BEST Rate
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SUITE	4,000.00	3,000.00Net

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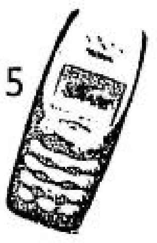

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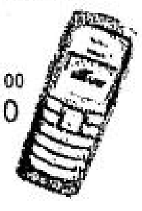

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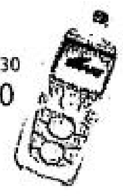

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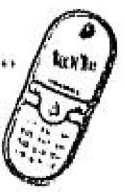

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SPORTS

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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

TANGUILIG (31) gets a refreshing splash from a supporter along Kennon Road. Beside him is stage runner-up Ravina of VAT Riders. ROMY HOMILLADA

Tanguilig conquers 'killer' lap, seizes lead

By Marc Anthony Reyes

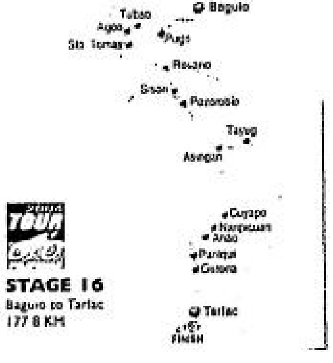
BAGUIO CITY—Rhyan Tanguilig proved he's got the nerves and the legs to tame the fearsome Cordillera mountains yesterday and reclaimed the yellow jersey of leadership in yesterday's 15th stage of the Air21 Tour Pilipinas here.

A day after yielding top spot to Enrico Domingo, Tanguilig ruled the Baguio-to-Baguio stage—an exhausting drive through all three gateways to this city—and was back on top, this time by four minutes 51 seconds over Lloyd Reynante.

Domingo, who started the day 6:27 ahead of Albert Primero, fell to seventh overall as he struggled home 28th for the day, 23 minutes 20 seconds behind Tanguilig, who timed five hours 53 minutes and 41 seconds in securing his first stage win. *(See results on A32)*

While Tanguilig now seemed to have a lock on the P200,000 top individual prize based on record and experience, the 25-year-old PLDT skipper said he has to survive today's 16th and penultimate stage to Tarlac that will start with another downhill run through Marcos Highway.

"*Takot ako sa lusong, pero bukas nakasalalay sa lusong at mahabang patag kaya pipilitin ko talaga* (I'm afraid of downhill runs but tomorrow's stage depends on that and the long flat road race. So I have no choice but take the risk)," said Tanguilig, who wore the yellow jersey in the 12th and 13th stages.



Tanguilig, weakened by cold in the 14th lap that saw him tumble to fifth overall, 10 minutes behind Domingo, won the 199-km stage by a second over rookie Baler Ravina and picked up P25,000 as Killer Lap conqueror.

But he faces a more dangerous rival now in Reynante, son of former two-time Tour winner Maui, who finished sixth in the stage and formally bagged the King of the Mountain award worth P50,000.

The Postmen, despite the contrasting fortunes of Domingo and Reynante, also virtually snagged the P1 million prize as team champion by opening a lead of 28 minutes and 32 seconds over Beer na Beer.

But the 35-year-old Domingo, revered on flat roads but ridiculed in the mountains, refused to give up, saying he still has a crack at it in today's stage and in tomorrow's 17th and last criterium stage.

"I know that this is my last chance to win a championship before retiring," said Domingo.

He will have to contend, however, with Tanguilig who yesterday applied the advice he got from two-time champion Carlo Guieb, himself a formidable Eagle of the Mountain from a bygone era.

Tanguilig said Guieb, his fellow Nueva Vizcayanon, had offered him some tips in scaling heights before the Baguio stages. He didn't elaborate on what pointers he got but proved that he learned something as he held sway as early as in the first ascent via Naguillan where he pulled ahead by 11 minutes over the fast-fading Domingo.

Ironically, Guieb, the 37-year-old back-to-back champion in 1993-1994, didn't finish yesterday's stage, giving up even before reaching the city proper for the first time.

The stage, which was once ruled out by the UCI (International Cycling Federation) for sheer difficulty, proved too tough that only 62 of the 77 riders, who started yesterday, have so far reached the finish line at presstime.

"*Talagang malakas po* (He's really strong)," said Ravina, 22, of Tanguilig. For grimly hanging on, Ravina also went up to eighth overall ahead of Santy Barnachea and former winner Victor Espiritu.

Ravina, who hails from Asingan, Pangasinan, toiled on his heavy Taiwan-made bike. "*Kung maganda pa ang bike nyan baka yan pa ang mag* champion (If he has a better bike, he could have won the title)," said his coach Cesar Lobramonte.

Primero, who was in second place overall before the start of 15th stage, fell to third place overall followed by Calderon and .

Rosales siblings in the hunt

GERALD Rosales fired a seven-under 65 yesterday and jumped to a share of third place, 2 shots off leader Rahil Gangjee of India, in the $300,000 Volkswagen Masters-China at the Pine Valley Club in Beijing.

Gerald's sister, Jennifer, also had a hot start in the Chick-Fil-A Charity Championship at the Eagles Landing Country Club in Stockbridge, Georgia. J-Ro shot a two-under 70 and joined 10 others in 14th place, 5 shots behind solo leader Christina Kim.

Jong Arcano

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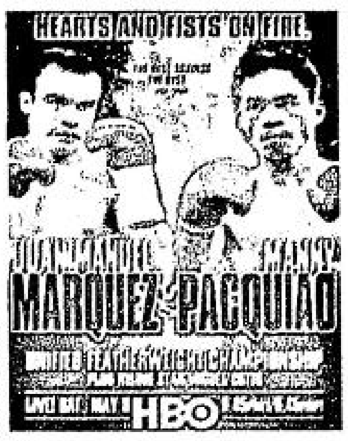
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- **Pacquiao in better shape now** /A28

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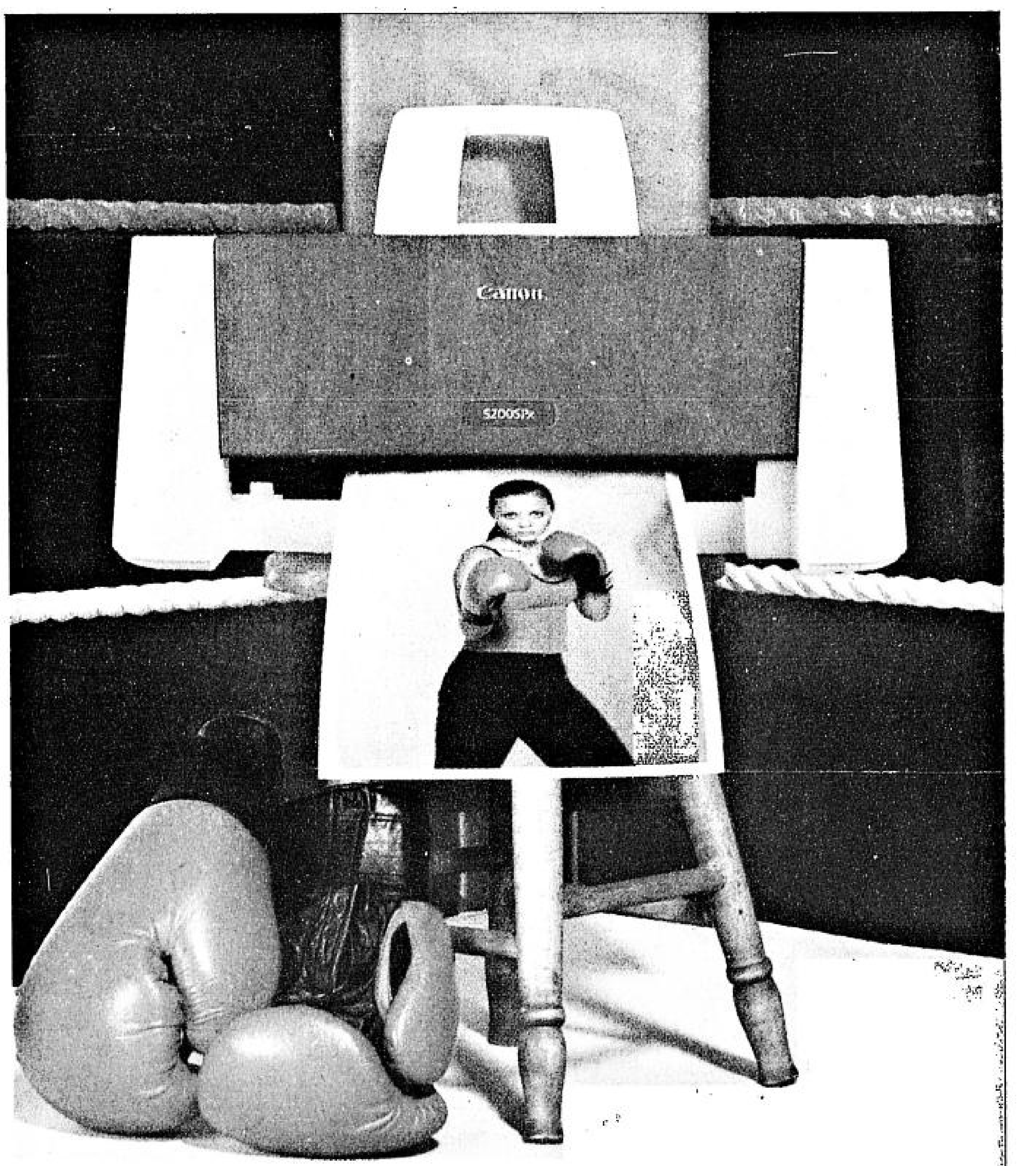

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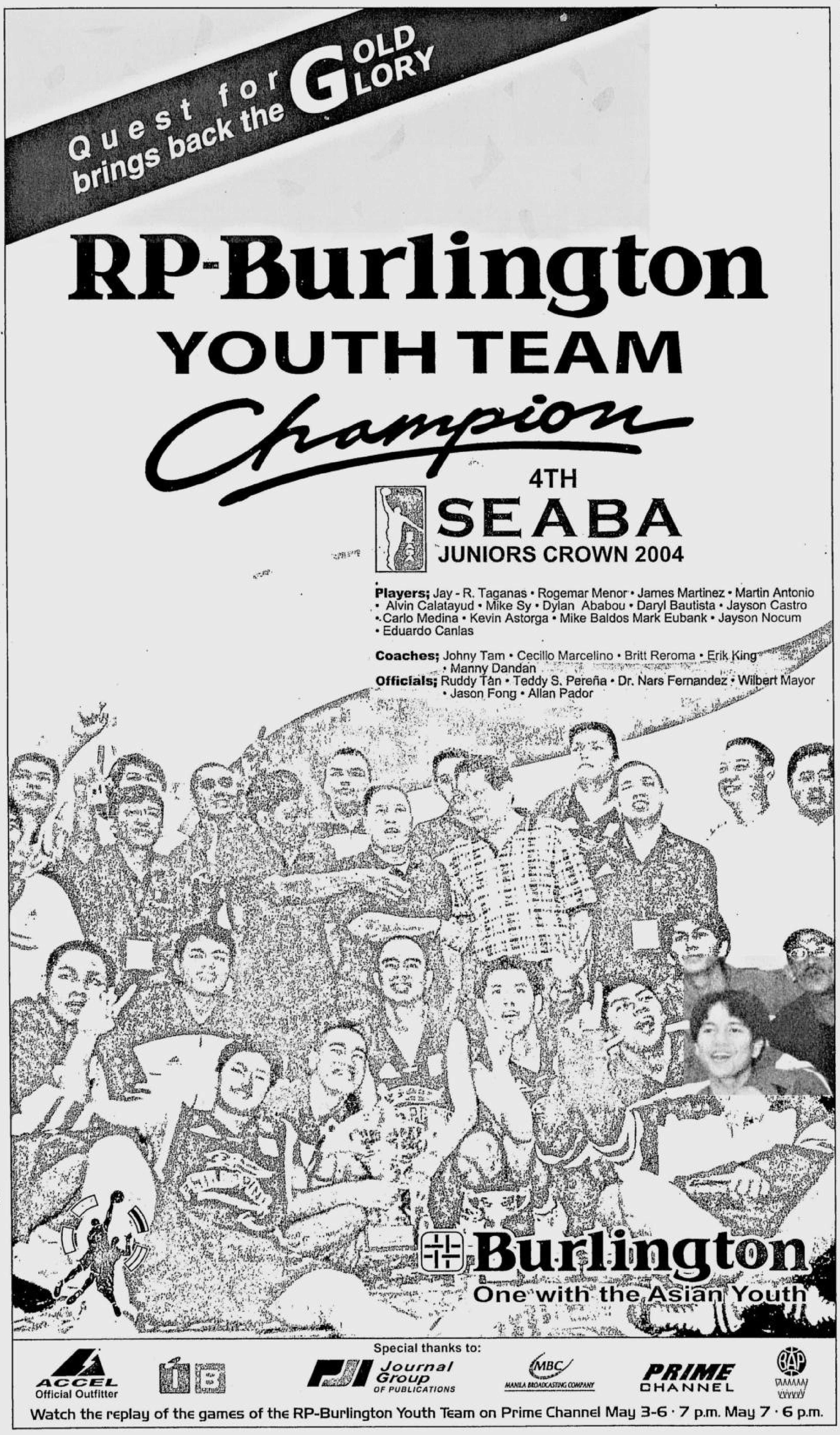

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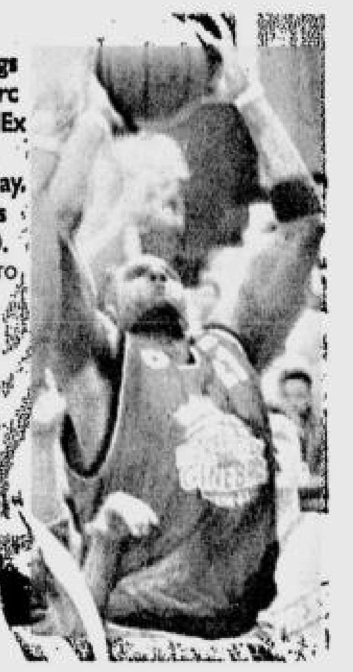
Red-hot Beermen take on Hotdogs



GINEBRA'S Torraye Braggs shoots off Marc Pingris of FedEx during their game Thursday. The Gin Kings won, 125-110. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

SAN MIGUEL tries to inch closer toward the top quarterfinal seeding today when the Beermen, red-hot again, clash with skidding Purefoods in the PBA Gran Matador Fiesta Conference eliminations at the Araneta Coliseum.

On a three-game winning streak, the Beermen are again installed as rock-solid picks to prevail in their 4:10 p.m. encounter with the Tender Juicy Hotdogs, losers of their last five games.

The Hotdogs have pushed the panic button and brought in a replacement for the inconsistent Eddie Elisma. Pyne Washington was to be measured for the team's 6-foot-8 height limit late yesterday.

Purefoods shares the cellar with FedEx at 3-9. Though no one will be booted out after the double-round elims, finishing last would mean a distinct disadvantage in the first phase of the quarterfinals.

STANDINGS	W	L
San Miguel	11	1
Coca-Cola	8	4
Alaska	8	4
Talk 'N Text	7	6
Red Bull	6	6
Ginebra	5	7
Shell	5	7
Sta. Lucia	5	8
FedEx	3	9
Purefoods	3	9

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:10 p.m.—Purefoods vs San Miguel
6:30 p.m.—Alaska vs Shell

Alaska, meanwhile, shoots for solo second place later in the night, battling dangerous Shell at 6:30.

San Miguel Beer continues to lead with its 11-1 card. After their eight-game winning streak got snapped, the Beermen are again on a roll and will be coming into the game fresh from flaunting their most fearsome form less than a week ago against Sta. Lucia Realty.

The Beermen dismantled the Realtors with workmanlike precision on Sunday, 120-99, moving coach Jong Uichico within two victories of securing No. 1 seeding outright.

"Just when do you know when you are peaking?" Uichico said, throwing back the question to the media when asked if his team could be peaking at the wrong time.

"I'd rather have my team execute the way it should, rather than execute badly."

Purefoods will be coming into the game in danger of duplicating the longest losing streak in the tournament at six games, a mark in futility held by Barangay Ginebra, a sister team like San Miguel Beer.

"We've been unlucky in the fourth (quarters) of our last games," Purefoods' Ryan Gregorio said. "Some breaks just did not go our way, otherwise, we would have been in a very different position in the leaderboard." *Musong Castillo, Contributor*

Knights host Viva, seek redemption

VIVA Mineral Water shoots for the solo lead in the 2004 PBL Unity Cup when it tackles Toyota Otis-Letran in the homecourt of its opponent today in Intramuros.

The Water Force, who share top spot with Welcoat Paints at 6-1, are slight picks in their 4 p.m. date with the Knights, who are expected to go for a win at all cost following their misadventure last Thursday.

The Knights were tied with Welcoat with eight seconds to go when Ronjay Enrile fouled Dino Aldeguer, who made his freethrows to give the Paint Masters an 83-81 win.

STANDINGS	W	L
Welcoat	6	1
Viva	6	1
Sunkist	4	3
Toyota Otis-Letran	3	3
Hapee	3	3
Montaña	2	5
Blu Star	1	5
Lee Pipes-Ateneo	1	5

GAMES TODAY
(*Letran Gym*)
2 p.m.—Lee Pipes-Ateneo vs Sunkist-UST
4 p.m.—Toyota Otis-Letran vs Viva Mineral Water

Sunkist-UST and Lee Pipes-Ateneo, their losing streaks behind them, collide at 2 p.m.

The Tigers ended their three-game slide at the expense of Montaña while the Eagles picked no less than defending champion Hapee to snap their five-game losing streak.

Sunkist-UST has a 4-3 record ahead of Toyota Otis-Letran's 3-3.

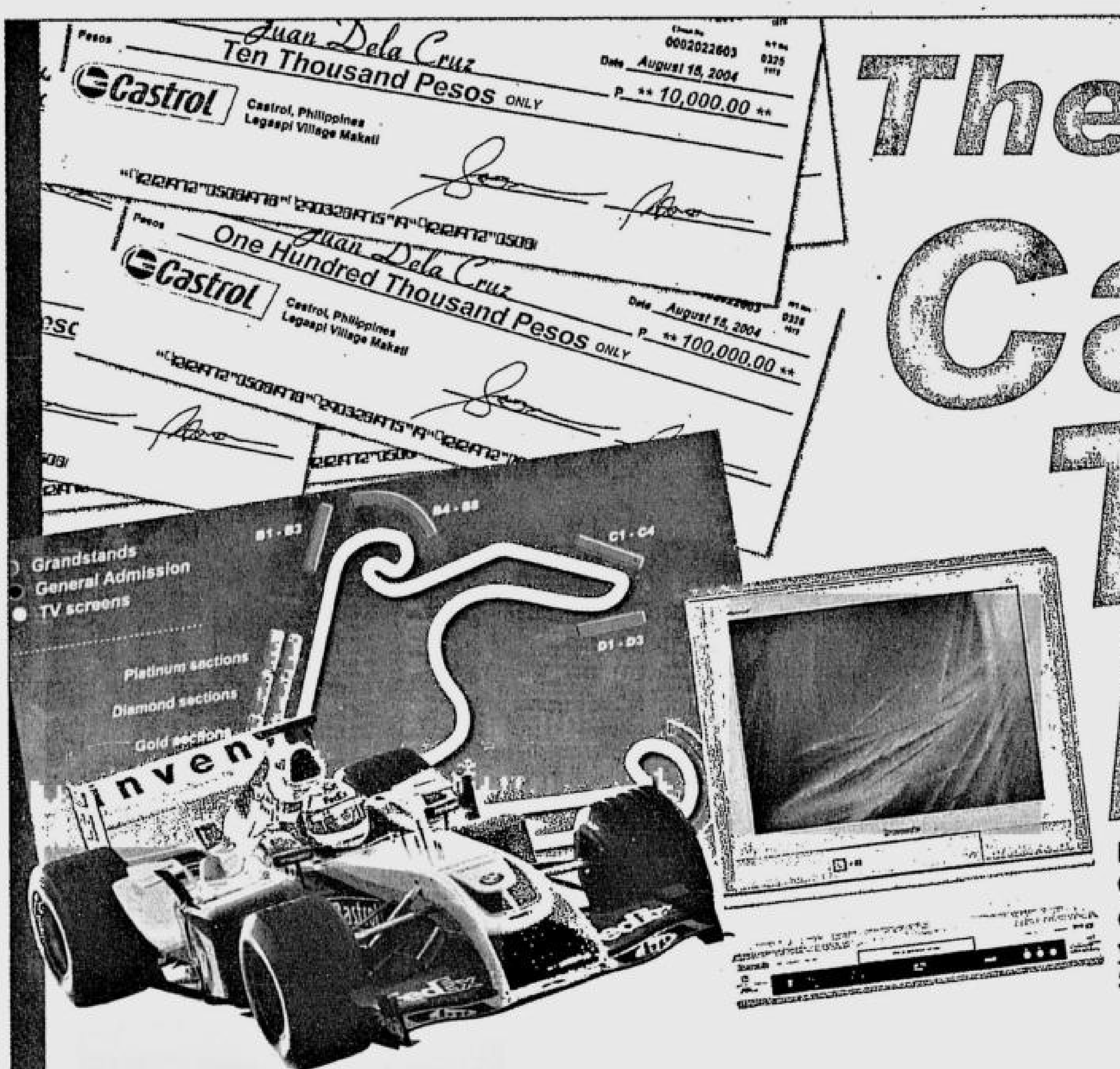
Viva, a resounding 80-69 winner over Blu Star Detergent in its last game, expects tough sailing against the Knights.

"The game is in their court. Anything can happen," said Viva coach Koy Banal, who is banking on the firepower of RJ Rizada, Arwind Santos and Gerard Jones. *Trina Ibarle*

SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: 2004 NBA Playoffs-Hornets vs Heat, Game 5, Eastern First Round, 7 a.m. (r-9:30 p.m.); Solar Sports; Nuggets vs Wolves Game 5, Western First Round; 9:30 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); ESPN—Miami hosts New Orleans in the pivotal fifth game while Denver faces Minnesota at the Target Center.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.



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1. A sticker with a corresponding 8-digit alphanumeric code is attached to the bottle caps of the following PCO products:

a. Castrol GTX	(1 Liter / 4 Liters)
b. Castrol GTX Diesel	(1 Liter / 4 Liters)
c. Castrol Magnatec	(4 Liters)
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Example of the alphanumeric code: **F1ABC123**

2. Text your entry following this format:
HELLO (space) **CASTROL** (space) **NAME** (slash) **ALPHA NUMERIC CODE**(slash) **CONTACT NUMBER** (slash) **COMPLETE ADDRESS**
Example: HELLO CASTROL Jimmy Guevarra/**F1ABC123/**7120255/123 Macopa St. Block 2 Phase 3, Quezon City
*In texting the alphanumeric code, the symbol **"Ø"** stands for the number zero and **"O"** stands for the letter **O**

3. Send your entries to **2333** for Globe or Touch Mobile and to **211** for Smart, Talk N' Text and PLDT subscribers.

4. Participants will receive a confirmation text message to assure them that their entry was received.

Example: "Thank you Jimmy Guevara for joining in The Grand Castrol Text Blast Promo. The code you sent was **F1ABC123**. Your code is equivalent to _______entries. Keep the cap with the alphanumeric code sticker intact, to be presented in case you win. Every text sent is P 2.50. Promo period is until August 05, 2004. For more details, see posters, flyers and print ads. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1242, Series of 2004.

5. Winners should present the cap with the alphanumeric code to claim the prize. Winners will be disqualified if cap with the winning code cannot be presented. Stickers should not be taken off the bottle cap. Torn stickers will be considered invalid.

6. Each product has a corresponding number of entries:

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d. Castrol GTX Diesel	(4 Liters)	4 entries
e. Castrol Magnatec	(4 Liters)	8 entries
f. Castrol Formula RS	(4 Liters)	16 entries

7. An entry code should only be texted once. The raffle entries assigned will depend on the kind of product purchased.

8. The following are the prizes that you could win:

Grand Prize: P100,000.00 in cash for each of the three (3) winners and their corresponding dealer partner

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3rd Prize: Home Entertainment showcase that consists of a (25") 63.5 cm Panasonic Flat Color TV, TC-25PS70RX and Panasonic DVD Player DVDS25 for each of the two (2) winners with their corresponding dealer partner

Consolation Prizes: For consumers only
- 25 winners of gift certificates for one set of four (4) tires from Goodyear
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Weekly Draw Prizes: P10,000.00 in cash for each winner and corresponding dealer partner

9. The winners of the trip to Shanghai will have to take care of all travel related documents and taxes and should submit the necessary documents to the head office of Castrol Philippines, 30/F LKG Building, Ayala Ave., Makati City on or before August 31, 2004. Should a winner fail to prepare all travel related documents before the Formula 1 Grand Prix on September 24 to 27, 2004, they still have 6 months to avail of the trip before the prize is forfeited. It will be strictly Manila-Shanghai-Manila trip for the second prize winners. Accommodation for four (4) days and three (3) nights with breakfast c/o Castrol Philippines.

10. The gift certificates from Goodyear, Ace Hardware or Hardware Workshop, True Value and Handyman are valid for one (1) year from date of issue. Gift certificates will come in P1,000.00 denomination.

11. Winners will be determined through an electronic raffle draw with the presence of a DTI representative on August 13, 2004, 10:00 a.m. at MyAyala Head Office of Mezzanine, Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati City.

12. The weekly draws are scheduled every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. The cut-off time of entries for the weekly draws is on or before 11:59 p.m. of the day before, Tuesday of the following draw dates: May 12, 19, 26, June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and July 7, 14, 21 and 28.

13. Only entries sent on or before 11:59 p.m. of Tuesday will qualify for the draw the next day. Entries sent after 11:59 p.m. of Tuesday will qualify for the next week's draw.

14. Weekly winners will be published every Sunday of the same week of the draws in a newspaper of general circulation.

15. Winners can only win once during the scheduled weekly draws. However they are still qualified to win during the Grand Raffle Draw.

16. Only entries sent beginning 12:01 a.m. of May 01, 2004 until 11:59 p.m. of August 05, 2004 will be considered valid during the Grand Raffle Draw.

17. Prizes such as the trip to Shanghai, Home Entertainment Showcase and Consolation Prizes are transferable but non-convertible to cash.

18. Participants can only win once in the Grand Raffle Draw, if a winner's name is picked more than once, the prize with the higher value shall be awarded to him/her.

19. Winners will be notified through telephone and registered mail. The list of winners will be published in a newspaper of general circulation.

20. All winners can claim their prizes at Castrol Head Office, 30/F LKG Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. All the prizes of winners outside Manila area will be sent through courier c/o Castrol Philippines.

21. In claiming prizes, present the bottle cap with the winning code, registered mail and any valid ID.

22. Consolation prize winners can claim their prizes in the nearest outlet of Goodyear, ACE Hardware or Hardware Workshop, True Value and Handyman outlets.

23. The 20% tax for the prizes will be shouldered by Castrol Philippines.

24. All employees and relatives of Castrol Philippines, Stratworks, Inc., MyAyala, and relatives up to second degree of affinity and consanguinity are disqualified from the promo.

25. Dealers and distributors are disqualified unless they are the valid dealer partners of the consumer winner.

26. Prizes that are not claimed in 60 days after the receipt of notification will be forfeited with prior approval from DTI.

PROMO PERIOD:
May 01 to August 05, 2004

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SAYS ROACH:

Pacquiao in even better shape now

By Salven L. Lagumbay

MANNY Pacquiao is in better shape now than when he stopped Mexican boxing legend Marco Antonio Barrera last year.

Trainer of the Year Freddie Roach declared this yesterday during a final press conference at the Max's of Manila Restaurant in Glendale, California.

The Pacquiao entourage motors to Las Vegas on Tuesday morning.

Roach, accompanied by Pacquiao and promoter Murad Muhammad, expressed unusual confidence the Filipino champion will topple WBA/IBF featherweight champion Juan Manuel Marquez when they tangle on May 8 at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas.

"Manny is trained so well. He's in better shape now than he was for the Barrera fight. I really feel good about this fight," Roach was quoted by Fightnews when asked of Pacquiao's chances.

Roach also emphasized that nothing else matters but a Pacquiao win, noting that all his future big fights is contingent on a victory over Marquez.

"Manny is very confident, but more important than confidence, he's going to be ready. Marquez is a strong kid and we've done everything we can to prepare for him," Roach told the Las Vegas Sun.

The southpaw Pacquiao, dapper in red polo shirt, also did not mince words as he announced he's ready to take on Marquez. "I'm ready for anything Marquez has," the General Santos City native declared. "No question in my mind. I will win."

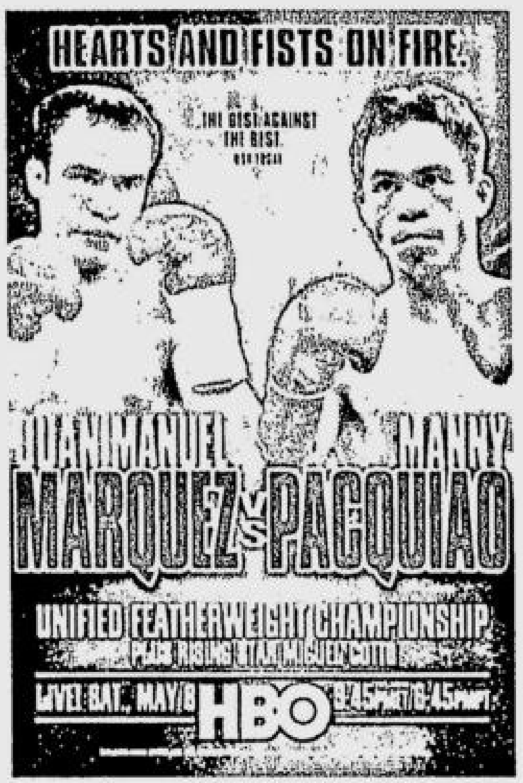
When told that Marquez's trainer had earlier expressed concern on Pacquiao's southpaw stance, the Filipino hero just let out a mischievous grin and took a glance at his left fist.

Muhammad also joined the verbal fray, stating that Pacquiao is now "bigger than big. He's bigger than the Philippines. He now represents all of Asia. He has a whole continent on his shoulders when he goes into the ring against Marquez," Fightnews reported.

Marquez, who is still in Mexico tapering off from his training regimen for the Pacquiao super-bout, is scheduled to arrive in Las Vegas on Wednesday (Philippine time).

Although Marquez was absent in yesterday's press conference, his promoter, Bob Arum, took the podium, stating: "We already have over six thousand sales. I'm convinced we're going to have a sellout."

Pacquiao, then the IBF super bantamweight champion, stopped Barrera in the 11th round of their 12-round fight last November and was acclaimed as the world's top featherweight fighter.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THE BEST AGAINST THE BEST.
JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ VS MANNY PACQUIAO
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HBO

THE POSTER announcing the big HBO clash

Criminal raps ordered filed vs horseowner

THE CITY Prosecutor's Office of Makati has recommended the filing of criminal charges for grave threats against horseowner Alfredo "Freddie" Po stemming from a complaint of jockey Dennis Camañero.

In his complaint, Camañero claimed that Po had poked a gun at him a day after piloting horse Top Quest to victory, contrary to Po's pre-race instructions for him to lose the race.

Assistant city prosecutor Jesus Labriaga Jr. approved the filing of the case against Po last Feb. 4 after finding merit in Camañero's complaint. He recommended a bail of P12,000 for the respondent's temporary liberty.

According to Labriaga, a careful assessment and evaluation of the complaint showed the presence of probable cause against Po under Article 282 (Grave Threats) of the Revised Penal Code.

"Complainant's evidence shows that respondent Po poked a gun believed to be caliber .45, silver in color, and threatened Dennis Camañero with death by the use of the said gun . . ." Labriaga wrote in the resolution.

Labriaga also recommended that Po's counter charge against Camañero and witness Josefina Tanagon be dismissed for lack of merit.

Estimo clears issue on forged signatures

THE LIQUIDATION report containing forged signatures of players who competed in the 2002 World Chess Olympiad was furnished by lawyer Sammy Estimo, according to former National Chess Federation of the Philippines executive director Gene Poliarco.

"I received from NCFP secretary general Samuel Estimo the liquidation of Expenses of Financial Assistance in the amount of P1,128,000 from the Philippine Sports Commission signed by the players and staff, submitted to the PSC per letter dated 28 August 2002," said Poliarco in an affidavit filed last Jan. 23.

Based on the liquidation report submitted to the PSC, which was "certified true and correct" by Poliarco, the members of the national team that competed in the World Olympiad in Bled, Slovenia, reportedly got a training allowance of P90,000 each, covering the months of June to August of 2002, for a total of P930,000.

Grandmasters Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor, IMs Nelson Mariano II and women's NM Sheerie Joy Lomibao, who were all national team members to the Bled Olympiad, have filed affidavits stating that they never got the said allowances.

Antonio and Villamayor also swore that the signatures in the document were not theirs.

When contacted, Estimo said the players had allowed their signatures to be signed on the document. Estimo explained that this is resorted to, even in the case of allowances, for the convenience of the players themselves.

Estimo added that he has affidavits from GM Eugene Torre, IM Mark Paragua, Beverly Mendoza and Lomibao attesting that they allowed their names to be signed.

Estimo has alleged in a letter to the NCFP board on Feb. 23 that most of the P1,128,000 were given as cash prizes of the National Chess Championship.

Unrest at NBN

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I HAVE received a complaint that Mia Concio, who calls herself president and chairman of NBN, is illegally occupying the position "president" of NBN.

"It is against the PTNI Charter for Ms Mia Concio to sit as president/chairman of NBN," said an NBN employee who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Republic Act No. 7306 provides that among the five members of the board, they shall elect among themselves one who shall serve as Chairman of the Board."

The writer said: "Nowhere in the Charter does it say that NBN has a position for president."

Apart from this point of view of the NBN employee, which could easily be resolved by an appropriate government agency like the Department of Labor and Employment maybe, I write about Ms Concio again because of her seeming apathy to calls that she abandon her bid to have the Athens Olympics covered by NBN.

As I keep saying here, the NBN is public property, it being a government corporation. The NBN has been in the red for years now and yet, Ms Concio, still entertains illusions she could have the NBN cover it.

On the other hand, though, I guess she really could—but with bright prospects again of disastrous results as when she had the NBN cover the Sydney Olympics in 2000 and the 2002 Busan Asian Games. Huge losses accompanied both misadventures.

You see, it's our money being used here.

And look, how can NBN cover the Athens Olympics when it still owes the International Olympic Committee $1.2 million? And to think NBN also still owes the PBA millions of pesos arising from a bungled deal to have the PBA covered via an almost sky-is-the-limit agreement.

NBN's opponents in the Athens Olympiad bid are Solar Sports and a consortium that includes the venerable Bobong Velez. Either of the two is financially capable to cover the Olympiad. But not NBN, which had been struggling to stay afloat and is merely surviving on the kindness, if not dole outs, from some Samaritans.

Just consider the gripes of NBN employees right now:

One, NBN has suddenly decided to have the 13th month pay given to employees in "two gives," including the cash gift bonus.

Two, employees almost failed to receive their salaries on April 15 but "Chairman Mia got her salary ahead of the employees." They said their salaries came from Cooperative funds "which is our own money."

Three, failure to remit deductions from employees' salaries to the BIR and other government agencies, forcing the employees to file a case in the Ombudsman.

Four, because the collective negotiation agreement fell into a deadlock after two months of negotiations, the employees have started to hold protest rallies starting April 20, usually from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

"We are not only protesting the non-delivery of benefits due us but also the mismanagement of NBN under Chairman Concio," said the union members.

The employees had staged a rally against Ms Concio's leadership at the Elliptical Road, Quezon City, on Tuesday, April 27.

I must reiterate here that I have nothing personal against Ms Concio. I had mentioned here awhile back about the impropriety of government engaging the private sector in business rivalry, as when NBN entered the "bidding war" for the TV coverage of the PBA.

I have always believed that the government's foremost duty is to encourage the private sector to engage business with government, and never the government engaging in business rivalry with the private sector. That's what happened with NBN in the PBA case: It edged out a private consortium. And look what happened next: NBN bungled it and it is now mired in neck-high debts that I wonder how NBN could recover its losses—if not its sanity.

Again, your call, Mama Mia.

SeeeMall!

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3 MAN ON FIRE	3 HELLBOY	GB1 GREENBELT 1	3 GUARANTEED SEATS SCHOOL OF ROCK 1 20 3 40, 6 00 8 20 10 40	3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
4 WHOLE 10 YARDS	4 SCHOOL OF ROCK	1 IMAGINING ARGENTINA 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	4 GUARANTEED SEATS WHOLE 10 YARDS 1 35 3 40 5 45 7 50 9 55 12 00	4 DRAGON VS. NINJA
5 SCHOOL OF ROCK		2 STARSKY & HUTCH 12 35, 2 40, 4 45, 6.50, 8 55	5 GUARANTEED SEATS HELLBOY 1 20 3 50 6 20 8 50 11 20	5 TAKING LIVES

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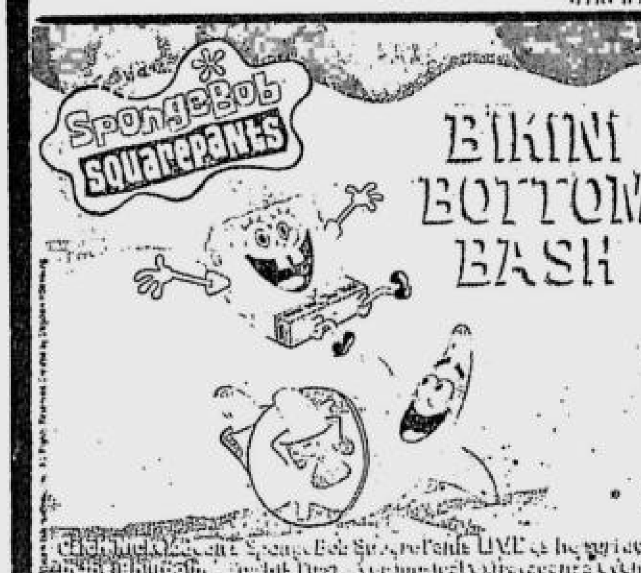

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AYALA CENTER ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU LoveMall!

Veteran Navy pair humbles US foes

ANGELES CITY, Pampanga—Helen Dosdos and John Carpio relied on their long and tested partnership to surprise the taller but less experienced pair of Haley Shaw and Jessica Joy Nelson, 21-3, yesterday in the 2nd leg of the 2004 Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball Tournament at the classy Clearwater Country Club here.

Dosdos and Carpio, who have been teammates for seven years now in the Philippine Navy volleyball team, reduced the highly touted Americans to shambles, piling up an astonishing total of 14 service winners in the first game of this event supported by Petron and Universal Motors. Wilson is the official ball.

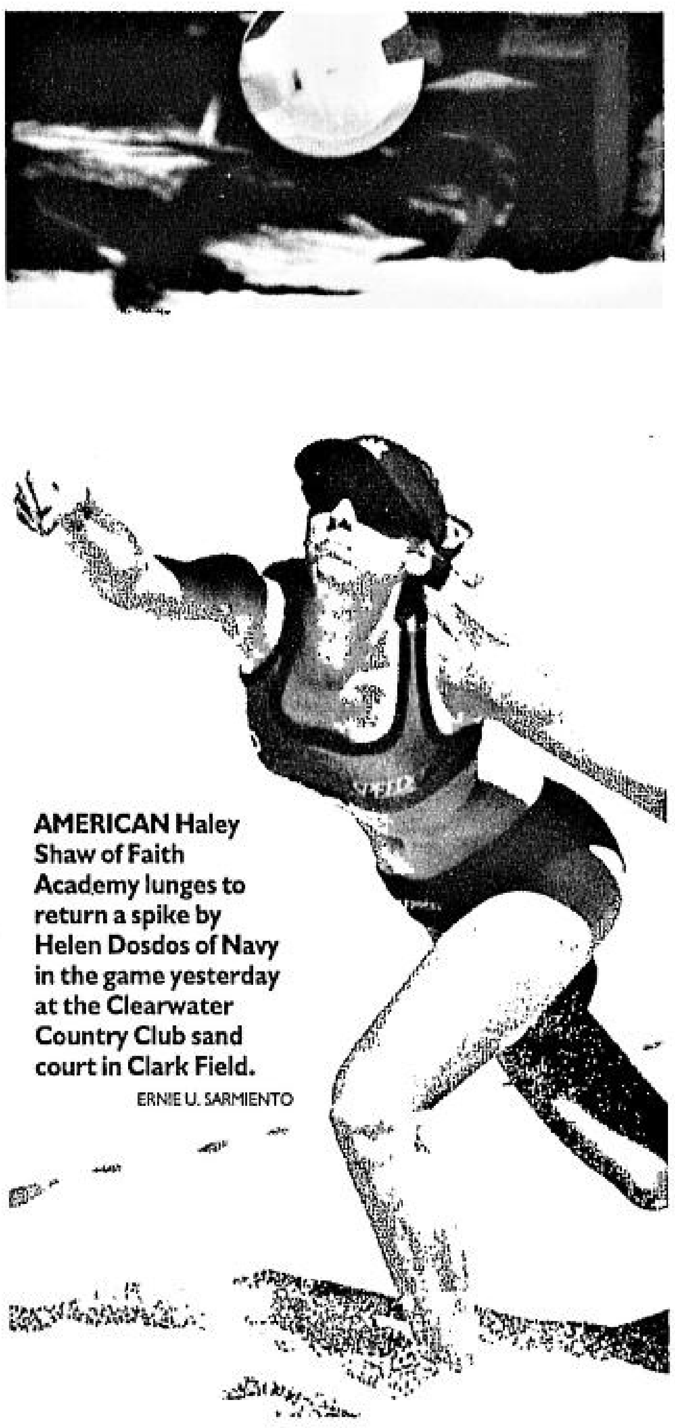
After racing to an early 5-0 lead, Dosdos and Carpio pulled away without much resistance from the Americans.

"We just played our game and we were surprised that they (Shaw and Nelson) could not even return our serves," said the 30-year-old Dosdos, who was the libero of the RP team in 2001.

Shaw is set to play in the US collegiate Division I tournament for Liberty University.

The semifinals and finals will be held today.

In other games, University of the Philippines' Karla San Diego and Jackie Montrefino shackled Rophalyn Sebastian and Lalaine Victoria, 21-9; Gamela Ann Septo and Lou Maranon clobbered Rosalina Gomez and Michelle Querubin, 21-11; and Shery Anne Garcia and Sherly Abello edged Sharon Ledesma and Hegazel Herrera, 21-19.



AMERICAN Haley Shaw of Faith Academy lunges to return a spike by Helen Dosdos of Navy in the game yesterday at the Clearwater Country Club sand court in Clark Field. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

JULIO CUP

Bisera does it wire-to-wire

By Jong Arcano

RAMIL Bisera added his name to the long roster of golf champions from Davao when he survived a determined bid by Robert Pactolerin yesterday to capture the PGAP-Julio Cup golf championship in wire-to-wire fashion at the Villamor Golf Club course.

The longshot Bisera closed with a three-over-par 75, but Pactolerin, the many-time Philippine Masters champion on a course where he is considered king, just failed to capitalize.

Bisera totaled 285 for the P120,000 top prize while Pactolerin, who carded a 73 for 286, settled for P80,000 from the P1 million pot staked by Korean patron Lee Sung Ho, better known as Julio to his friends in the local pro golf ranks.

Pactolerin had actually taken a two-stroke lead with an eagle 2 on the 10th hole after trailing by four shots earlier. But the odds swung into Bisera's side when it mattered most.

A three-putt miscue by Pactolerin on the 12th and Bisera's birdie on the 13th pulled the two even again.

Bisera moved ahead despite a three-putt bogey on the 15th as his rival missed the green and then three-putted from eight feet for a double-bogey.

The drama continued with Pactolerin shooting another tying birdie on the next hole. But just as he was going for the kill, Pactolerin hooked his 8-iron tee shot on the par-3 17th and found himself in a very difficult lie in a hazard. Hitting from a kneeling position, Pactolerin got onto the green then two-putted for bogey that allowed Bisera to get the go-ahead par.

"I knew I had the game to beat Pactolerin or anybody else. Thank God I made it," said Bisera, a cousin of the Ababa brothers and former national amateur champ Lito Saban.

The final scores: 285—R. Bisera 68-72-70-75; 286—R. Pactolerin 72-72-71-73; 291—T. Lascuña 70-75-71-72; 292—C. Casas 76-71-70-75; 293—J. Pagunsan (am) 71-78-72-72, J. Bemis (am) 75-76-72-70. 296—M. Pucay 78-70-71-75; 297—J. Rempojo 72-75-75-82; 298—M. Eso 70-75-71-82, Jn. Pagunsan 74-74-75-74; 299—R. Abaring 77-74-73-75, W. de Tomas 78-76-73-74.

VICTORIOUS Bisera (right) receives his trophy from Korean tournament sponsor Lee Sung Ho. RUDY ESPERAS

2nd Epson badminton camp May 10

THE SECOND training schedule of the Epson Summer Badminton Camp reels off May 10 with hundreds of badminton enthusiasts expected to troop to the Pioneer Badminton Club in Mandaluyong City.

Camp director Eg Lim will handle the camp along with former national teammates Steven Yan and Malvin Alcala in the event sponsored by Epson, Regatta, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-lite.

Aside from learning the fundamentals of the sport and improving their motor skills, Li said participants will learn the rules of the game as well as court discipline and etiquette.

Training modules will also be prepared for the participants to get the feel of actual competition and practice what they have learned during the camp, which runs until May 31.

Registration fee is P2,500. Interested parties may call 746-0828 or 638-5343

Participants will undergo 10 training sessions scheduled three times a week either on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, or a program to be held every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Pioneer Badminton Club's Edmin Tarriela said the first batch of participants in the Epson Summer Badminton Camp had shown great improvement as far as skill level is concerned.

Tarriela added Epson would organize a mini-tournament for the camp participants to see how they fare after going through the training sessions.

Lerma boosts golden haul in Thailand to 4

LERMA Bulauitan Gabito reasserted her domination of the women's long jump by ruling her favorite event in the Thai Open Athletics Championships yesterday at the Thammasat University track and field stadium in Bangkok.

It was the Filipinos' fourth gold medal in the meet following victories by Eduardo Buenavista (10,000 meters) Rene Herrera (1,500 meters) and Arniel Ferrera (hammer throw).

John Lozada, another gold medal prospect, settled for the bronze medal in the men's 800 meters won by Korea's Jae Hun Lee in 1:48.73, followed by Iran's Ehsam Mohajer (1:49.98).

Lozada, the SEA Games winner in the event last year, was a far third in 1:52.13.

Gabito could only record a winning jump of 6.27 meters but it was enough to beat Taipei's Kuo Hui Wang and compatriot Maristella Torres who did 6.20 and 6.18, respectively.

"I'm disappointed with my winning jump but there was a strong headwind," said the 29-year-old Gabito, who has a personal best of 6.50 when she copped the bronze in the strong Asian championship last year in Manila. However, Gabito bettered her own SEA Games mark of 6.21.

Buenavista was seeking to add the 5,000-m title later in the final day of the four-day meet.

Atheltics chief Go Teng Kok said he is happy his wards are not coming home empty-handed from the trip funded by the Philippine Sports Commission. "The Thais always offer very stiff competition in their national championships," he said.

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Maradona leaves hospital after 12-day confinement

BUENOS AIRES—Diego Maradona left hospital on Thursday to stay with friends, eluding media who had kept a vigil since the Argentine soccer great was rushed to intensive care with lung and heart trouble 12 days ago.

Maradona's covert departure sparked a manhunt by the waiting press pack, which has given blanket coverage to the national hero since he was taken ill with a swollen heart on April 18 after watching his beloved Boca Juniors play.

The 43-year-old, regarded as one of the greatest players in soccer history, moved to a friend's house on the outskirts of Buenos Aires.

Reuters television pictures and photographs showed an overweight Maradona, with bushy black hair and a red and black jacket, mingling with friends by a golf cart outside the large country house only hours after he left the hospital.

He stretched his arms before walking, unaided and with a relaxed swagger, into the house. Maradona has been back on his feet Wednesday, walking around his hospital room. *Reuters*

MARADONA

John stakes crown

NEW champion John "Owat" Salazar tests his skills against Bernard Marbella today in the "Search for Tanduay the No. 1 Billiards Player" at the Robinson's Malls.

It will be the first title defense for Salazar, who ousted Cebu bet Israel Rota, 5-2 last week in this event sponsored by Tanduay the No. 1 Rhum, Robinson's Malls, Accel, Hope the Luxury Cigarettes and Rommel's Billiards—the official table.

The event was conceptualized by Tanduay advertising manager Larry Li and supported by Tanduay marketing manager Andres Co.

Interested parties may inquire with Rose or Luz of Rommel's Billiards at tels. 712-3662 and 712-8931 and the Corporate Billiards League secretariat at 09189219934.

Spring prevails

VALENCIA CITY—Seven Lakes champion Spring Cooking Oil-San Pablo whipped Cagayan de Oro, 113-96, Thursday to end their four-game series here tied at two games apiece.

The Spring-SP squad of shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Mayor Florante "Boy" Aquino led 53-45 at halftime and never looked back.

The Cooking Oil Masters avenged the 58-78 loss they suffered in the hands of the Stars a day earlier in Claveria, Misamis Oriental.

The mini-series served as part of the preparations for the Panasonic-NBC national championship starting on May 22 in Baguio City and May 23 in Cagayan de Oro.

1st execs chess tilt

THE FIRST 2004 Entrepreneurs, Executives and Professionals Active chess tournament reels off at 10 a.m. tomorrow, May 2, at the second floor of Chowking-Remar Branch in Cubao, Quezon City.

The event is sponsored by Primanila Realty & Development Corp. and Prime News Publishing. Interested parties may register at the venue at least one hour before the tournament starts. For details, call 435-8412 or 09168521069.

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Registration is on May 2, 4-5 pm at the Cinema lobby of the SM Megamall and Judging follows. Winners will receive gift certificates worth P5,000 from Sari-San, "I Will Survive" t-shirt, Leonardo tote bag and P10,000 cash each. Plus, instant access to the Red Carpet Premiere of "I Will Survive".

Photo Exhibit

See the photo exhibit of "I will Survive" movie starting May 5 at the Cinema lobby of SM Megamall

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(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 BOOBITA ROSE
2 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1
2
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
5 RESERVE
6
7 (DTS)
8 (SDDS)
9 (DOLBY)

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 CLOSE FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSE FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSE FOR RENOVATION
4 (SDDS) HELLBOY
5 STARSKY & HUTCH
6 (DOLBY) ANIMAL
7 (DTS) MAN OF FIRE
8 CHECK INN
9 BOOBITA ROSE

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 RESERVE
2 (SDDS)
3 (DTS)
4 (DOLBY)
5

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 MAN OF FIRE
2 SPARTAN
3 (DTS) WHOLE 10 YARD
4 ANIMAL
5 (SDDS) HELLBOY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson CARMEN
Lords DOUBLE SEDUCCTION

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 MAN ON FIRE
2 STARSKY & HUTCH
3 ANIMAL
4 RESERVED

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) WHOLE 10 YARD
2 MAN ON FIRE
3 ANIMAL
4 STARSKY & HUTCH
5 HELLBOY

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 ANIMAL
2 TORQUE

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center
Ali MALL CINEPLEX 7
Tel No. 911-3101 Loc. 821-8942-8400
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) MAN OF FIRE
4 (SDDS) STARSKY & HUTCH
5 (DTS) WHOLE 10 YARD
6 HELLBOY
7 SCHOOL OF ROCK

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) HELLBOY
2 ACACIA
3 (DTS ES) PETER PAN
4 STARSKY & HUTCH

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 STARSKY & HUTCH
2 HELLBOY
3 (DOLBY) PETER PAN
4 (DTS) BOOBITA ROSE

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 BOOBITA ROSE
3 (DOLBY) REPLICATE
4 (DTS) EMPERORS CLUB

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 STARSKY & HUTCH
2 ANIMAL
3 (DTS) HELLBOY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 MAN OF FIRE
2 (DTS) STARSKY & HUTCH
3 (DOLBY) HELLBOY
4 UNINVITED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 STARSKY & HUTCH
2 (DOLBY) HELLBOY
3 (DTS) MAN OF FIRE
4 UNINVITED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel (045) 9821727
1 BOOBITA ROSE
2 PASSION OF CHRIST
3 (DOLBY) UNINVITED

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 BOOBITA ROSE
2 HELLBOY
3 (DOLBY) BONE SNATCHER
4 (DTS) PASSION OF CHRIST

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795-3320
1 PETER PAN
2 TAKING LIVES
3 HELLBOY

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) HIGHWAY ME
2 ANIMAL
3 TEENAGE SEDUCTION
4 (DTS) LOVE KITA BILIB KA B

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) HELLBOY
2 ANIMAL
3 (DTS) MAN OF FIRE
4 UNINVITED
5 STARSKY & HUTCH

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 ANIMAL
2 MAN OF FIRE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 STARSKY & HUTCH
2 MAN OF FIRE
3 ANIMAL

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 PASSION OF CHRIST
2 BOOBITA ROSE
3 (DTS) BONE SNATCHER
4 (DOLBY) CHECK - IN

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel 520.8914
1 (DTS) RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 CHECK - IN
2 HELLBOY
3 TWISTED
4 PASSION OF CHRIST

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 ANIMAL
2 VIRGIN PEOPLE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

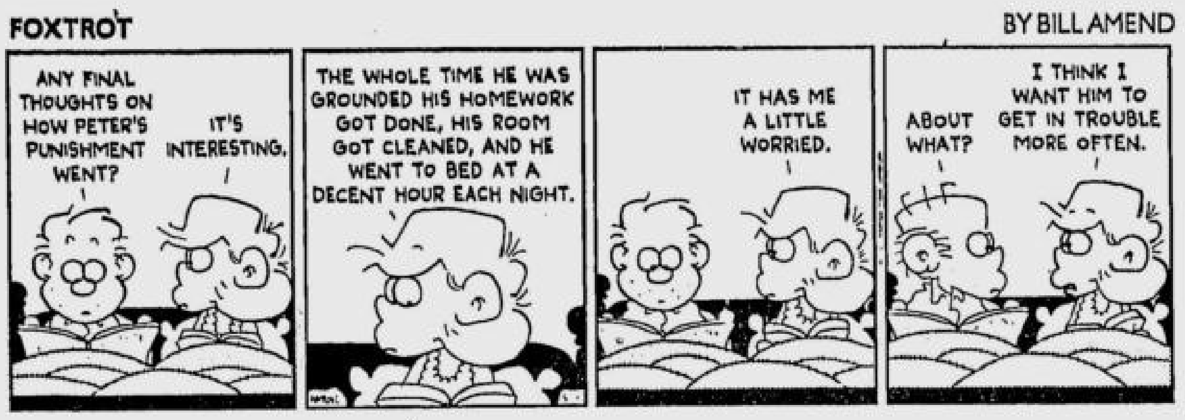
FESTIVAL CINEMA
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

SCOOBY-DOO 2 MONSTERS UNLEASHED
NOW SHOWING

More movies on pages B11, 12 and 13.

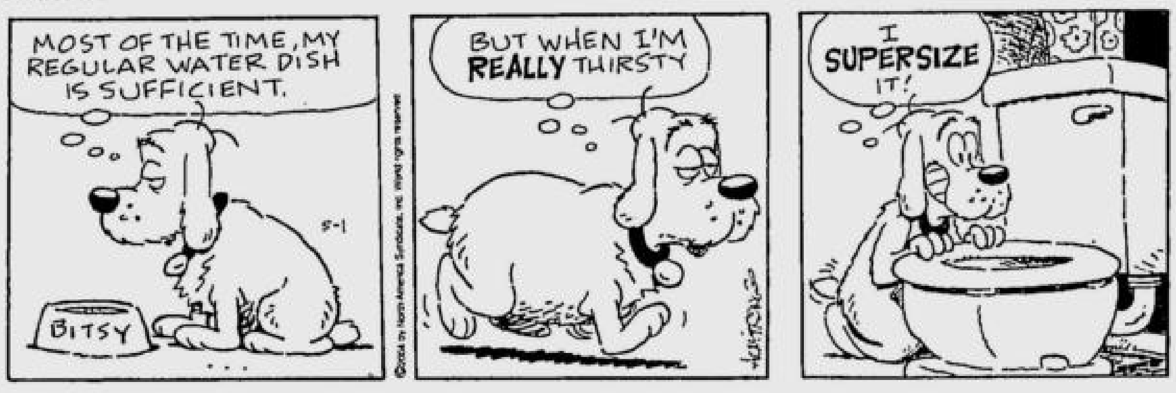
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


ANY FINAL THOUGHTS ON HOW PETER'S PUNISHMENT WENT?
IT'S INTERESTING.
THE WHOLE TIME HE WAS GROUNDED HIS HOMEWORK GOT DONE, HIS ROOM GOT CLEANED, AND HE WENT TO BED AT A DECENT HOUR EACH NIGHT.
IT HAS ME A LITTLE WORRIED.
ABOUT WHAT?
I THINK I WANT HIM TO GET IN TROUBLE MORE OFTEN.

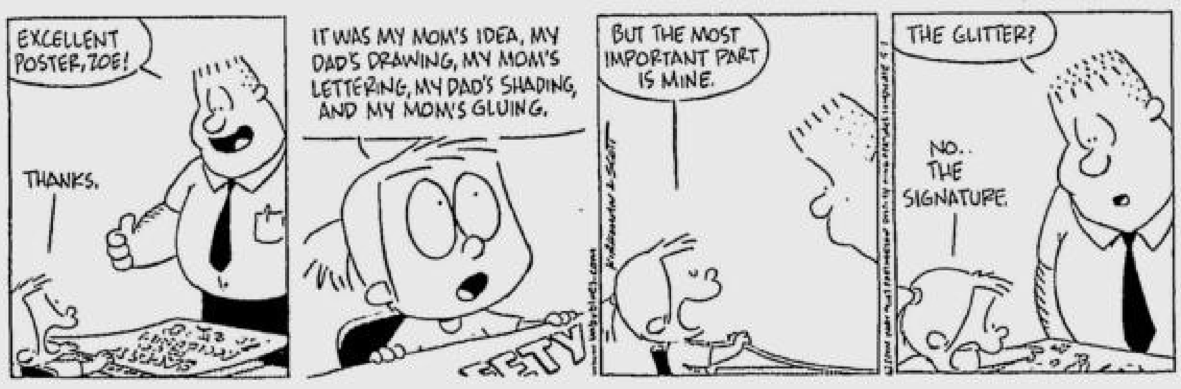
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MOST OF THE TIME, MY REGULAR WATER DISH IS SUFFICIENT.
BITSY
5-1
BUT WHEN I'M REALLY THIRSTY
I SUPERSIZE IT!

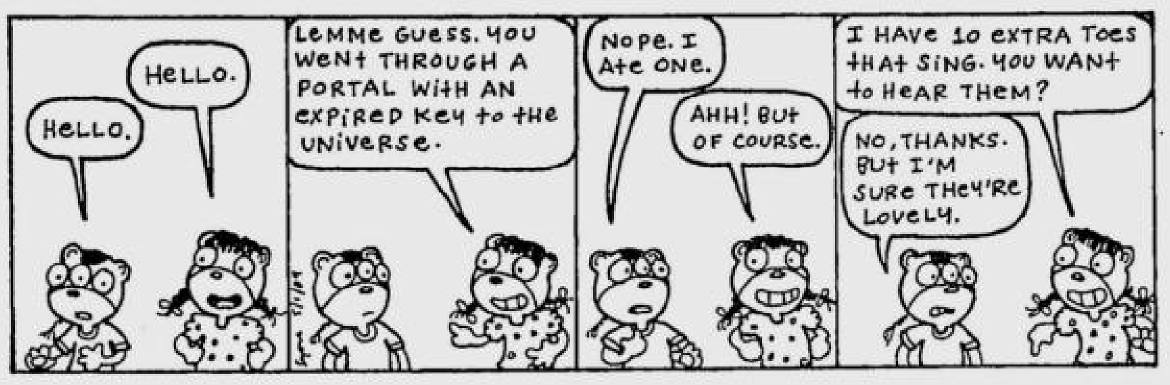
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


EXCELLENT POSTER, ZOE!
THANKS.
IT WAS MY MOM'S IDEA, MY DAD'S DRAWING, MY MOM'S LETTERING, MY DAD'S SHADING, AND MY MOM'S GLUING.
BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT PART IS MINE.
THE GLITTER?
NO.. THE SIGNATURE.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HELLO.
HELLO.
LEMME GUESS. YOU WENT THROUGH A PORTAL WITH AN EXPIRED KEY TO THE UNIVERSE.
NOPE. I ATE ONE.
AHH! BUT OF COURSE.
I HAVE 10 EXTRA TOES THAT SING. YOU WANT TO HEAR THEM?
NO, THANKS. BUT I'M SURE THEY'RE LOVELY.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a shrewd observer of the human condition. You see what goes on around you, and you often describe it in interesting detail. You have a steady, calm nature. You are solid, down to earth and have a good sense of humor. You often see irony in life. The year ahead is full of major changes, possibly as significant as those that took place in 1995.

Birthdate of: Scott Carpenter, astronaut; Rita Coolidge, singer; Joseph Heller, author.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a wonderful day for family discussions and family businesses. Ideas about real estate (or even family relationships) are sensible, positive and practical.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're in an excellent frame of mind today! You're not afraid to think big, yet you're not rash or silly. You have your head in the clouds and your feet on the ground.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Excellent day for real estate. You can't go wrong. Purchases or major decisions favorably impact your real estate and your family scene. You feel positive but cautious.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): With very little effort on your part, you sound wise and profound today. Choose today to propose any pet idea you have. You will make it sound appealing.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): It's possible to solidify your earnings in some way today. This is a good day for financial investments. It's a good day for all financial arrangements. Talk to the government and large institutions about anything.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're confident and convincing today. You see the potential in things, and at the same time, you see how to achieve them in a practical way. Today, all things seem possible!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You will make wise decisions about your career today. Whatever you choose to do will be well-thought-out and carefully planned. (And you will not be timid.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Today you see which of your goals are realistic and which are fanciful. Discard those that are not realistic, and start to work patiently for your success.

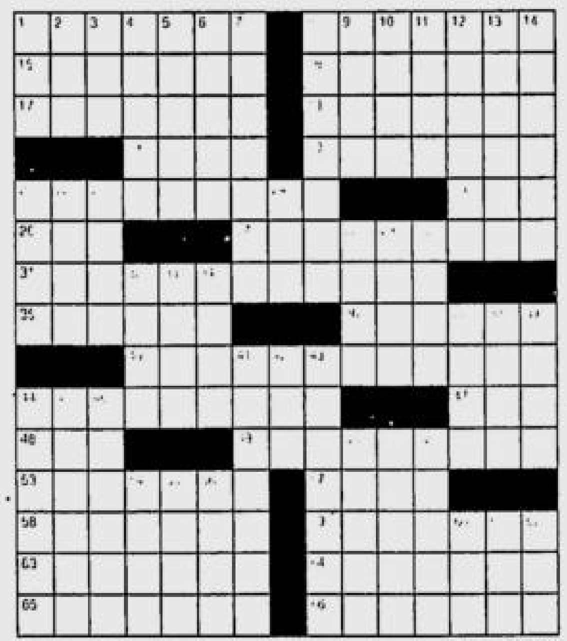
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You do not see obligations and duties as onerous or limiting today. Instead, you see them as opportunities to achieve wisdom and maturity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You can learn something important from someone today. A close friend or partner might suddenly become your wise teacher—even if it's just for a day.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Group efforts are successful today. You will approach the growth of any project with common sense and logic. Much can be done today!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a good day to talk about shared responsibilities regarding children. You see now that these responsibilities are not burdens. Quite the contrary; they're blessings.

DAILY CROSSWORD

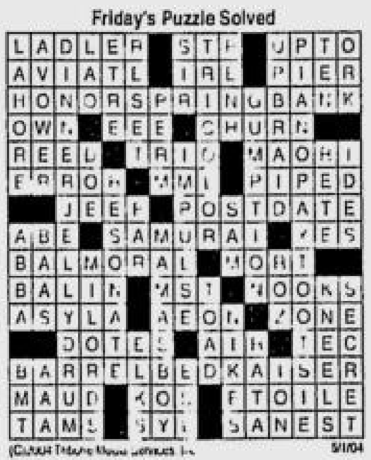


By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA
5/1/04

ACROSS
1 Make bigger
8 Boss
15 Perfectly
16 Deductive
17 Of body freezing
18 Faculty protest
19 Jodie Foster film
20 Let go
21 Breadwinner
25 Comparative ending
26 Significant time period
27 Muttonchops, for example
31 Short-gain football plays
35 Ancient Balkan region
36 Adjust beforehand
40 Meteor
44 Engine part
47 Is for two?
48 Docs' grp.
49 Lacking the skill
53 Fast-paced
57 Woe is me!
58 Having a dreamlike quality
59 New version
63 Worsted cloth
64 Deadline
65 Leaves
66 Scattered

DOWN
1 & more
2 "... _ gloom of night..."
3 Spread over a surface
4 Make amends
5 Ancient characters
6 Question aggressively
7 Embrace
8 Intense animosities
9 Dueling sword
10 Large inland sea
11 Dotted cubes
12 Goat coat
13 Up for the day
14 S.F. gridders
21 Mae or Nathanael
22 St. Louis monument
23 Teri of "Young Frankenstein"
24 By way of
28 Games channel's letters
29 Composer Alban
30 Exploits
32 Right on maps
33 Return caller?
34 Compact Dodge
37 Sudden, piercing pain
38 Scruggs or Weaver
39 Oak or maple
41 American League birds
42 Weight of bricks?
43 Proofs of age
44 Hesitated
45 Attribute to a cause
46 Persian governor
50 Native Alaskan
51 Road contractor
52 Comment to the audience
54 Humorist Bombeck
55 Former P.M. of Israel
56 Huff and puff
60 Espied
61 Put on the feed bag
62 Guided

Friday's Puzzle Solved



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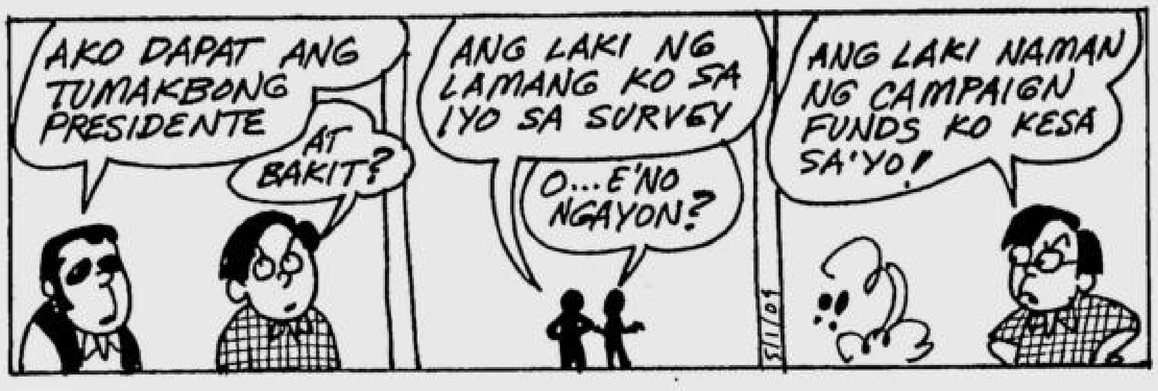
5/1/04

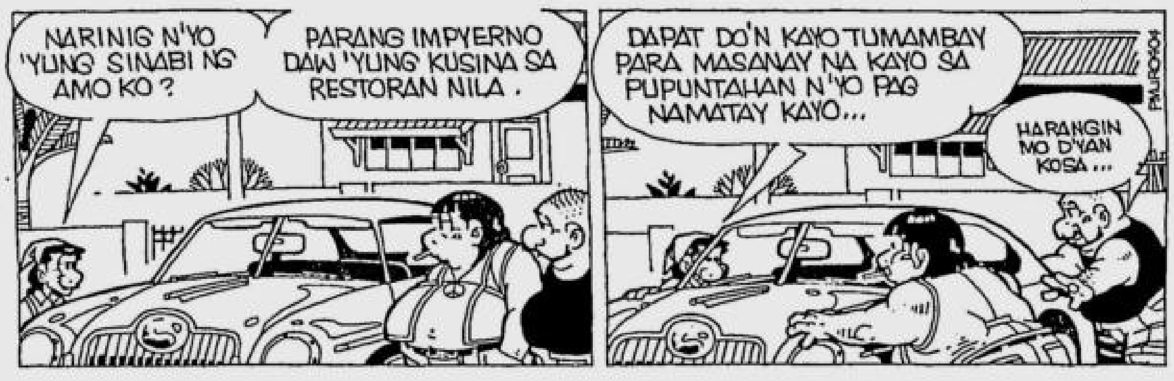
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


AKO DAPAT ANG TUMAKBONG PRESIDENTE
AT BAKIT?
ANG LAKI NG LAMANG KO SA IYO SA SURVEY
O...E'NO NGAYON?
ANG LAKI NAMAN NG CAMPAIGN FUNDS KO KESA SA'YO!
5/1/04

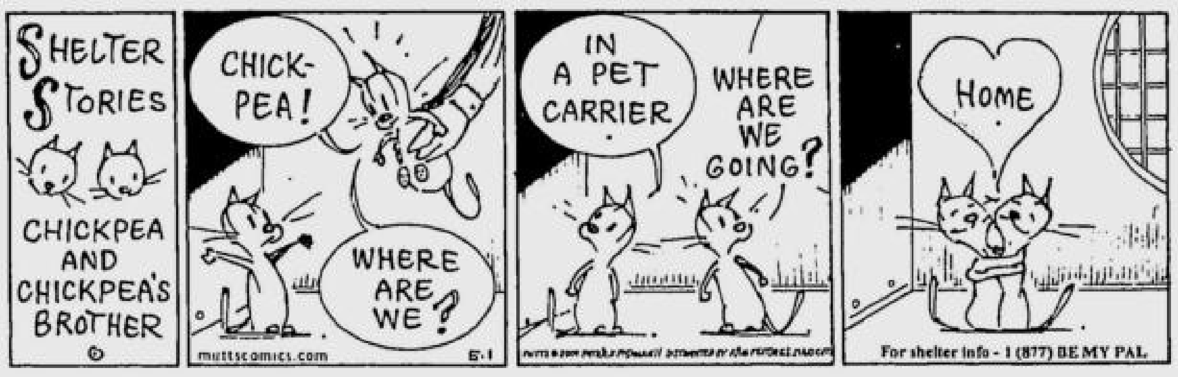
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NARINIG N'YO 'YUNG SINABI NG AMO KO?
PARANG IMPYERNO DAW 'YUNG KUSINA SA RESTORAN NILA.
DAPAT DO'N KAYO TUMAMBAY PARA MASANAY NA KAYO SA PUPUNTAHAN N'YO PAG NAMATAY KAYO...
HARANGIN MO D'YAN KOSA...
PMJR2004

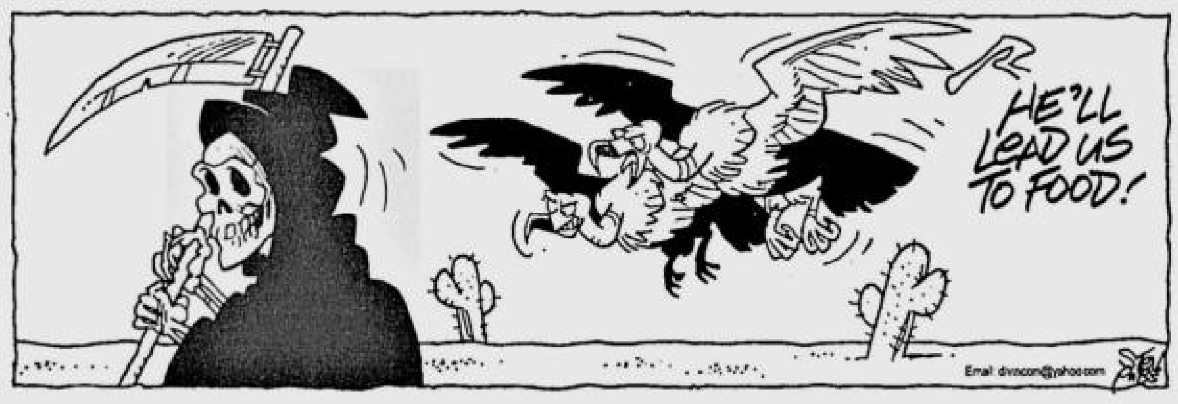
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHELTER STORIES
CHICKPEA AND CHICKPEA'S BROTHER
CHICK-PEA!
WHERE ARE WE?
muttscomics.com
5-1
IN A PET CARRIER.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
HOME.
For shelter info - 1 (877) BE MY PAL.

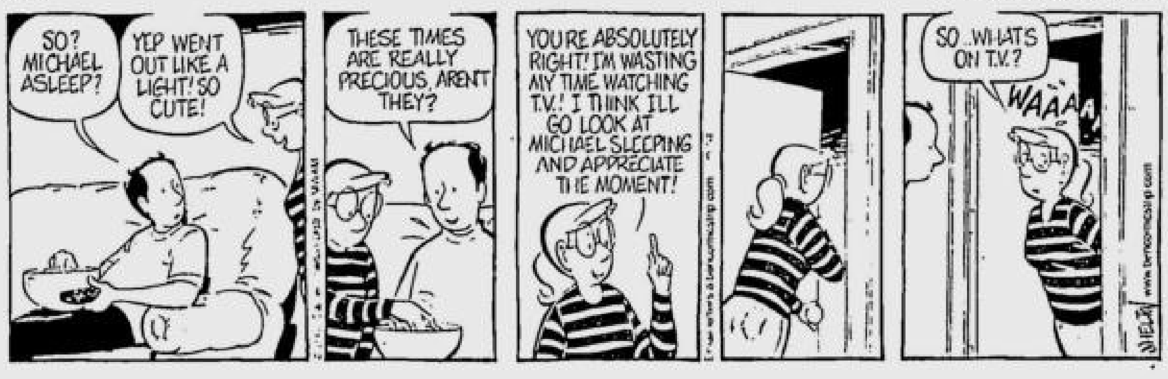
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALIÑAS


HE'LL LEAD US TO FOOD!
Email: divcom@yahoo.com

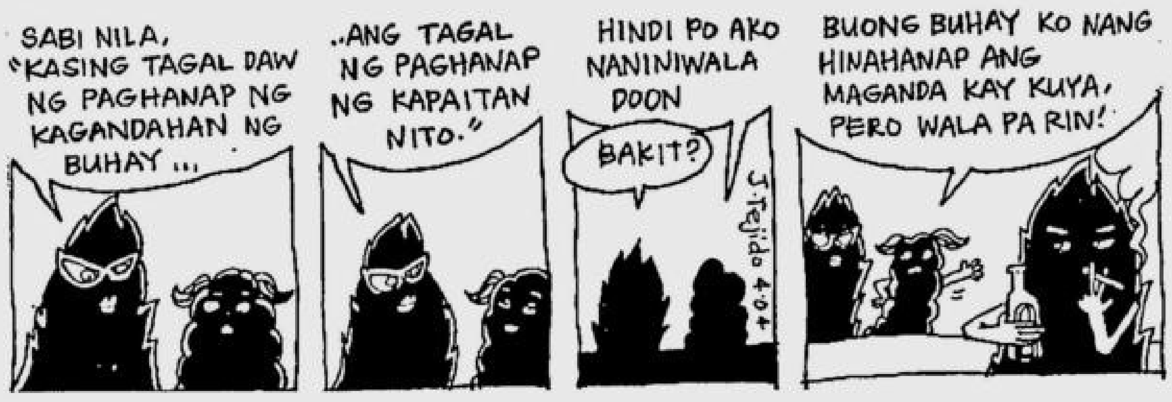
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SO? MICHAEL ASLEEP?
YEP WENT OUT LIKE A LIGHT! SO CUTE!
THESE TIMES ARE REALLY PRECIOUS, AREN'T THEY?
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT! I'M WASTING MY TIME WATCHING T.V.! I THINK I'LL GO LOOK AT MICHAEL SLEEPING AND APPRECIATE THE MOMENT!
SO..WHAT'S ON T.V.?
WAAA

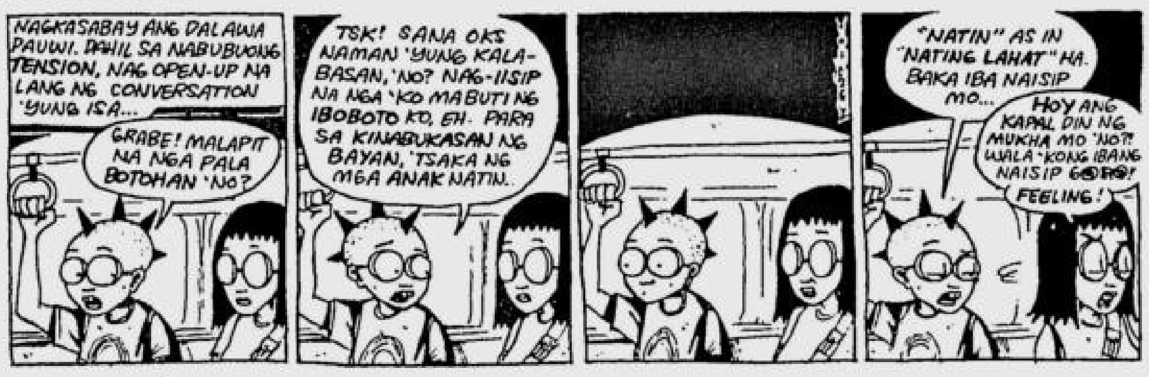
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SABI NILA, "KASING TAGAL DAW NG PAGHANAP NG KAGANDAHAN NG BUHAY...
..ANG TAGAL NG PAGHANAP NG KAPAITAN NITO."
HINDI PO AKO NANINIWALA DOON
BAKIT?
J. Tejido 4.04
BUONG BUHAY KO NANG HINAHANAP ANG MAGANDA KAY KUYA, PERO WALA PA RIN!

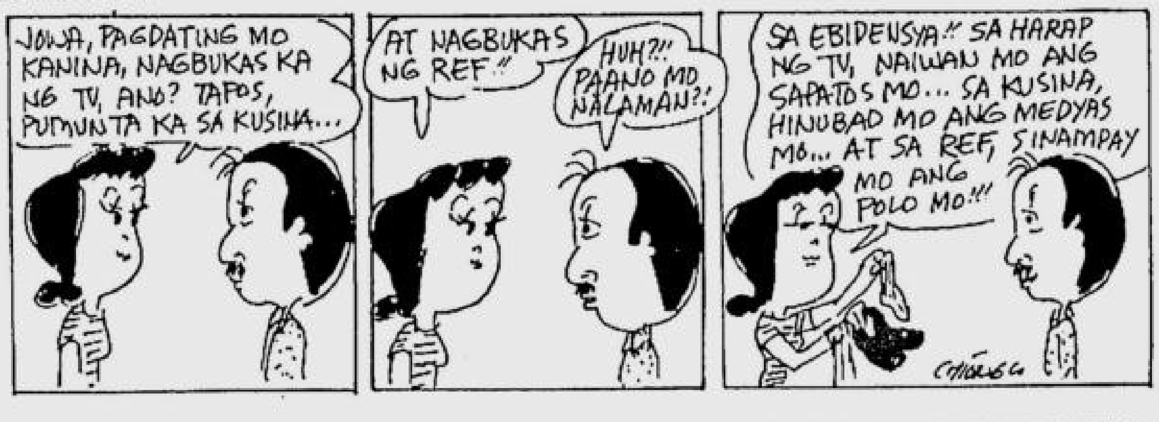
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


NAGKASABAY ANG DALAWA PAUWI. DAHIL SA NABUBUONG TENSION, NAG OPEN-UP NA LANG NG CONVERSATION 'YUNG ISA...
GRABE! MALAPIT NA NGA PALA BOTOHAN 'NO?
TSK! SANA OKS NAMAN 'YUNG KALABASAN, 'NO? NAG-IISIP NA NGA 'KO MABUTI NG IBOBOTO KO, EH. PARA SA KINABUKASAN NG BAYAN, 'TSAKA NG MGA ANAK NATIN.
"NATIN" AS IN "NATING LAHAT" HA. BAKA IBA NAISIP MO...
HOY ANG KAPAL DIN NG MUKHA MO 'NO?! WALA-KONG IBANG NAISIP GOSH! FEELING!

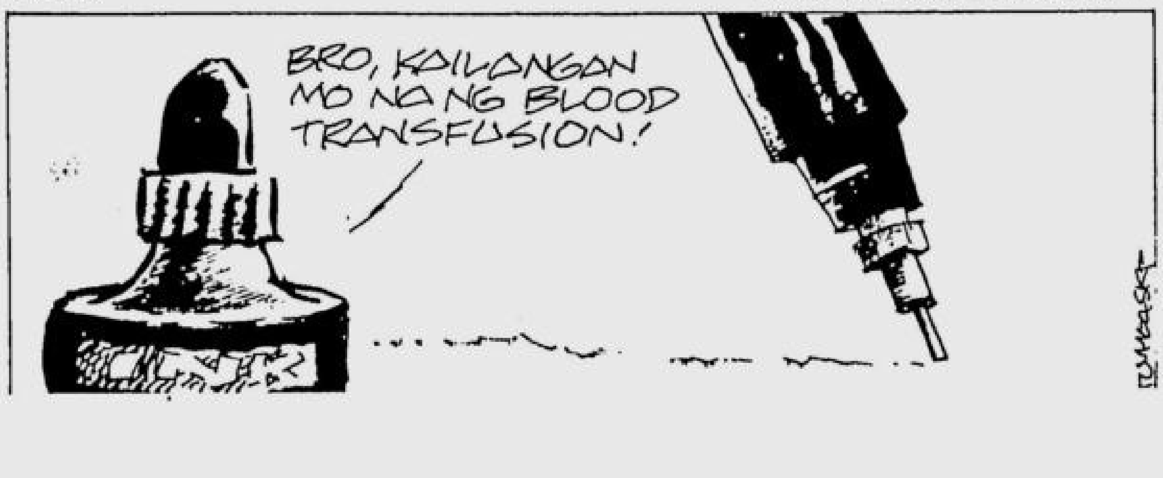
LOVEKNOTS

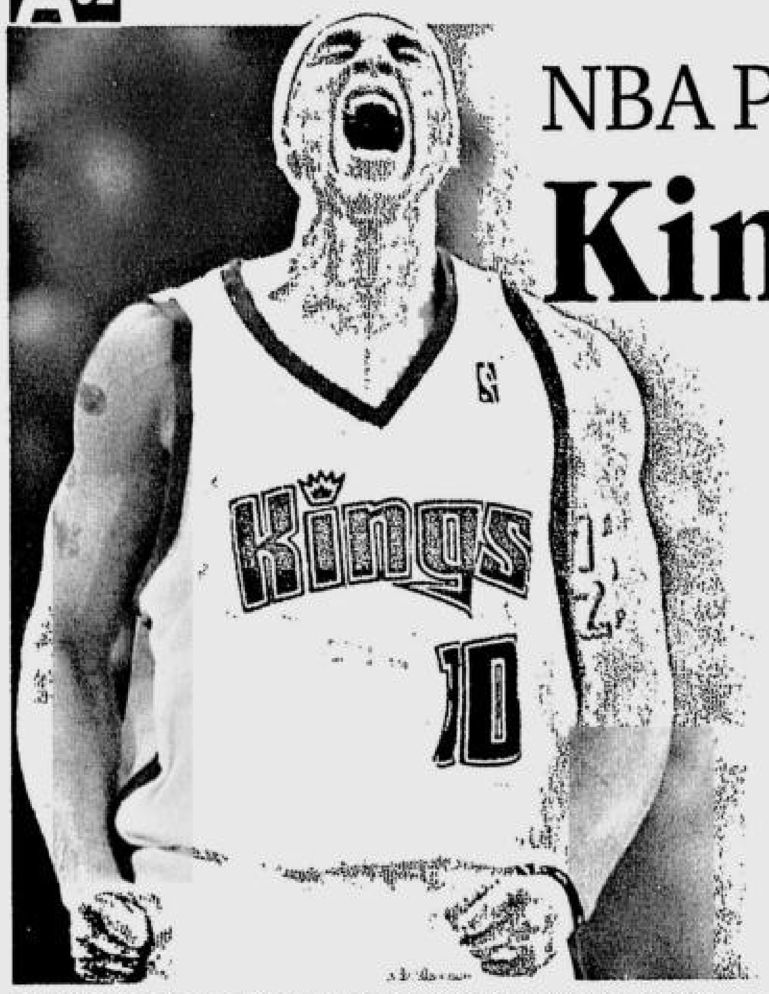
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, PAGDATING MO KANINA, NAGBUKAS KA NG TV, ANO? TAPOS, PUMUNTA KA SA KUSINA...
AT NAGBUKAS NG REF!!
HUH?!! PAANO MO NALAMAN?!
SA EBIDENSYA!! SA HARAP NG TV, NAIWAN MO ANG SAPATOS MO... SA KUSINA, HINUBAD MO ANG MEDYAS MO... AT SA REF, SINAMPAY MO ANG POLO MO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BRO, KAILANGAN MO NANG BLOOD TRANSFUSION!



BIBBY yells after making a three-pointer against the Mavericks. AFP

NBA PLAYOFFS

Kings, Pistons oust rivals

SACRAMENTO, California—Mike Bibby scored 12 of his playoff career-high 36 points in the fourth quarter as Sacramento defeated Dallas, 119-118, on Thursday to reach the second round of the National Basketball Association playoffs.

The Kings emerged with the victory in the highest-scoring game of the playoffs so far, advancing to the Western Conference semifinals with a 4-1 win in the best-of-seven series.

In the East, Detroit beat Milwaukee, 91-77, to reach the second round with a four-games-to-one triumph in their first-round series.

The Kings and Mavericks, the NBA's top offensive teams, played an unusually low-key first-round series as neither team was averaging better than 95 points in the first four games.

But both teams busted out in this one as the Kings desperately tried to eliminate the Mavericks.

Sacramento was clinging to a 115-114 lead with 5 1/2 minutes left, but the teams combined for just eight points thereafter. Doug Christie made a pair of free-throws for the Kings before Bibby buried a jumper to make it 119-114 at 3:21.

Sacramento did not score again and the Mavericks pulled within a point on Dirk Nowitzki's jumper with 29 seconds left.

Nowitzki forced Bibby into a miss and had a chance to win it at the other end, but Peja Stojakovic knocked the ball out of his hands and Nowitzki missed an off-balance jumper as time expired.

Dallas led by as many as 16 points early but could not contain the Kings, who shot 53 percent (48-of-91) from the floor and made 11-of-20 3-pointers.

Stojakovic collected 23 points and 10 rebounds as the Kings advanced to face the winner of the first-round series between the Minnesota Timberwolves and Denver Nuggets.

Nowitzki had 31 points and 14 rebounds and Steve Nash collected 24 points and 14 assists for the Mavericks, who reached the second round in their previous three playoff appearances.

In Detroit, Tayshaun Prince scored 10 of his playoff career-high 24 points in the decisive third quarter as the Pistons advanced to the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Detroit had taken a commanding 3-1 lead in the series by winning both games in Milwaukee, then prevented a return trip with a dominant performance. The Pistons never trailed after the first quarter, holding Milwaukee under 80 points for the first time in the series.

"We didn't want to go back to Milwaukee," Pistons guard Richard Hamilton said. "It was important for us to establish the home-court presence." *AFP*

Air21 Tour Pilipinas Stage 15 results

INDIVIDUAL

1. R. Tanguilig (PLDT) 5 hrs 53 mins 41 secs
2. B. Ravina (Vat Riders) 1 sec behind
3. V. Espiritu (Beer Na Beer) 2:35 mins
4. R. Gorantes (Metro Drug) 3:22 mins
5. L. Atilano (Mail and More) 4:37 mins
6. L. Reynante (Postmen) 5:05 mins
7. D. Ganigan (Vat Riders) 5:58 mins
8. E. Feliciano (Patrol 117) 7:01 mins
9. A. Primero (Dole) 9:50 mins behind; 10. J. Calderon (Beer Na Beer) same time
11. R. Navarro (Tanduay Rhum Riders) 12:32 mins; 12. S. Barnachea (Mail and More) same time
13. J. Millanes (Postmen) 13:38 mins
14. R. Dolosa (Metro Drug) 15:04 mins
15. G. Bergonio (Samsung) 15:32 mins; 16. D. Marana (Marsman Drysdale) same time
17. B. Llentada (Tanduay Rhum) 16:10 mins
18. B. Lopez Jr. (PLDT) 16:50 mins
19. T. Martinez (Beer Na Beer) 17:08 mins
20. C. Felix (Vat Riders) 17:35 mins
21. F. Alagano (Dole) 18:12 mins; 22. S. Servino (Tanduay Rhum) same time
23. W. Davadilla (Purefoods) 21:09 mins
24. A. Marcelo (Mail and More) 21:21 mins
25. G. Apolinar (Postmen) 21:44 mins
26. M. Primero (Dole) 22:07 mins
27. A. Benosa (Metro Drug) 22:28 mins
28. E. Domingo (Postmen) 23:20 mins
29. E. Quinones (Purefoods) 24:00 mins; 30. A. Quirimit (Tanduay Rhum) 31. E. Pablo (Vat Riders) 32. P. Manapul (Marsman Drysdale) same time

OVERALL

11. E. Feliciano (Patrol 117) 20:36 mins
12. D. Ganigan (Vat Riders) 22:21 mins
13. T. Martinez (Beer Na Beer) 26:09 mins
14. R. Dolosa (Metro Drug) 29:21 mins
15. J. Millanes (Postmen) 29:28 mins
16. R. Navarro (Tanduay Rhum) 31:47 mins
17. W. Davadilla (Purefoods) 39:27 mins
18. E. Quinones (Purefoods) 40:50 mins
19. A. Quirimit (Tanduay Rhum) 54:50 mins
20. A. Marcelo (Mail and More) 56:44 mins
21. E. Obosa (Samsung) 57:30 mins
22. C. Felix (Vat Riders) 1 hr 2 mins 3 secs

Celestino shocks Dandan

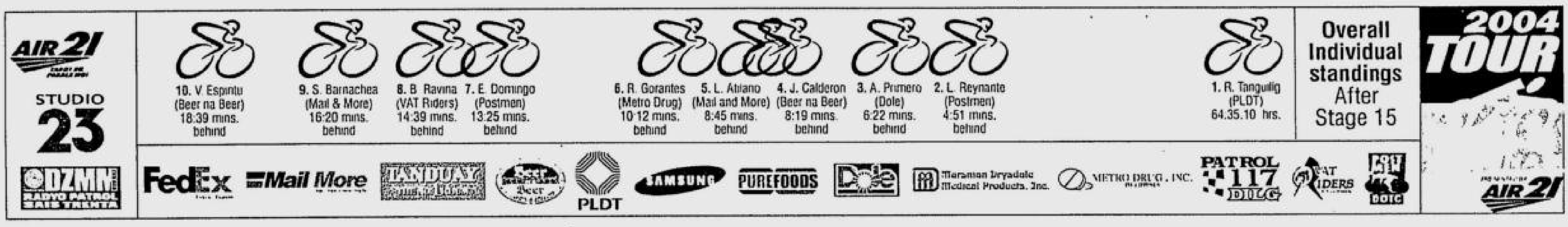
FIFTH SEED Nestor Celestino Jr. ousted top pick Kyle Dandan, 6-4, 6-4, yesterday to lead the semifinalists in the boys' 18-under division of the Toby's-Philta Junior Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Celestino's next opponent is fourth seed Jandrick de Castro, who beat Perene Alina, 6-4, 6-2.

Second seed Janjie Soquino demolished No. 8 Rommel Openiano, 6-0, 6-3, and No. 3 Irwin de Guzman whipped Anthony Rey Laplap, 6-1, 6-0.

In the boys' 14-under, top seed Pablo Olivarez II downed Alvin Manalastas, 6-4, 6-2; No. 2 El Santo Santos beat No. 8 Mark Balce, 6-1, 6-3, and No. 9 Akio Sy survived Jonathan Murrell, 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4, to advance in the semis. Sy also advanced in the 12-under semis after posting a 6-2, 6-1 victory over No. 5 Juan Gabriel Pena. Other winners were No. 2 Kim Ivor Saraza over No. 8 Leander Lazaro, 6-0, 6-1; No. 3 Bernardine Siso over No. 6 Kyle Cordero, 6-3, 6-3, and No. 4 Joseph Baldonado over No. 7 Alberto Villamor, 6-4, 6-1.

In the unisex 10-under quarterfinals, No. 1 Pocholo Macalino rallied past No. 6 Dheo Talatayod, 7-5, 4-6, 6-3; No. 2 Siso dumped Kim Polero, 6-1, 6-0, and No. 3 Jacob Lagman blasted Joana Pena, 6-0, 6-0.


AIR 21
STUDIO 23
DZMM RADYO PATROL SAIS TRENTA
10. V. Espiritu (Beer na Beer) 18:39 mins. behind
9. S. Barnachea (Mail & More) 16:20 mins. behind
8. B. Ravina (VAT Riders) 14:39 mins. behind
7. E. Domingo (Postmen) 13:25 mins. behind
6. R. Gorantes (Metro Drug) 10:12 mins. behind
5. L. Atilano (Mail and More) 8:45 mins. behind
4. J. Calderon (Beer na Beer) 8:19 mins. behind
3. A. Primero (Dole) 6:22 mins. behind
2. L. Reynante (Postmen) 4:51 mins. behind
1. R. Tanguilig (PLDT) 64:35.10 hrs.
Overall Individual standings After Stage 15
2004 TOUR
FedEx
Mail More
TANDUAY
Beer
PLDT
SAMSUNG
PUREFOODS
Dole
Marsman Drysdale Medical Products, Inc.
METRO DRUG, INC.
PATROL 117 DILG
VAT RIDERS
AIR 21

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adidas

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
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DIESEL MAX
Clean Diesel to the Max
PETRON

Gov't firms ordered to trim deficits

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has directed government-owned and -controlled corporations to exercise fiscal discipline and begin trimming down their budget deficits, which last year resulted in the entire public sector's worst fiscal position.

In particular, the finance department wanted the GOCCs to slash their combined 2004 deficit target of more than P100 billion.

An official from the DOF said the deficit target was unacceptable because it did not reflect willingness on the part of the GOCCs to improve their fiscal standing. Although she declined to disclose the exact amount of the deficit target, the official said it was about P120 billion, or almost double the P65 billion recorded in 2003.

Should the GOCCs incur a P120-billion deficit this year, the consolidated public sector deficit (CPSD) could further worsen because these public firms accounted for the bulk of the CPSD.

The CPSD, which provides a clearer picture of the country's financial standing than the national government's budget shortfall alone, is the total deficit incurred by the national government, local government units, government financial institutions and GOCCs.

Last year, the country's CPSD reached an all-time high of P244.6 billion. The figure was 11 percent higher than the year-ago level of P218.7 billion, and was equivalent to 5.6 percent of the gross domestic product for 2003.

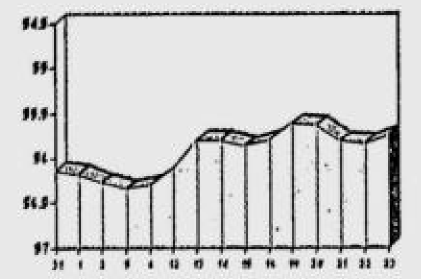
The burgeoning CPSD was despite the ability of the national government to strictly observe fiscal prudence last year and reduce its own deficit to only P199.9 billion from P213 billion in 2002. The CPSD was largely attributed to higher deficits incurred by the GOCCs, such as National Power Corp. and the National Food Authority.

"They submitted their deficit targets, and we gave their papers back. We are asking them to give more room for reduction," said another finance official privy to the matter.

The combined P65-billion deficit incurred by GOCCs last year was lower than the target of P97 billion, but was actually much higher than the P46.36 billion they posted in 2002. The P244.6-billion CPSD deficit last year was lower than the target of P285 billion, but much higher than the previous year's P218.7 billion.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P56.07 = $1

As of 5 p.m., April 30, 2004

¥110.44= $1

As of 5 p.m., April 30, 2004

GOLD: $383.60-384.10

per ounce Hong Kong, April 29, 2004

April 30, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.844666	1.000000	55.6950
Japan	Yen	0.007670	0.009081	0.5058
United Kingdom	Pound	1.495988	1.771100	98.6414
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.108299	0.128215	7.1409
Switzerland	Franc	0.646115	0.764935	42.6031
Canada	Dollar	0.614213	0.727167	40.4996
Singapore	Dollar	0.497213	0.588651	32.7849
Australia	Dollar	0.611191	0.723589	40.3003
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.240612	2.652661	147.7400
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.225239	0.266660	14.8516
Brunei	Dollar	0.495754	0.586923	32.6887
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000098	0.000116	0.0065
Thailand	Baht	0.021239	0.025145	1.4005
UAE	Dirham	0.229972	0.272264	15.1637
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.183900	65.9373
Argentina	Peso	0.296895	0.351494	19.5765
Brazil	Real	0.288282	0.341297	19.0085
Denmark	Kroner	0.134386	0.159099	8.8610
India	Rupee	0.019149	0.022671	1.2627
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.222310	0.263193	14.6585
Mexico	New Peso	0.074223	0.087873	4.8941
New Zealand	Dollar	0.525126	0.621697	34.6254
Norway	Kroner	0.122254	0.144737	8.0611
Korea	Won	0.000731	0.000865	0.0482
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025650	0.030367	1.6913

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end 1.7% lower

STOCKS fell for the second straight day yesterday led by telecom leader PLDT and second-largest lender Bank of the Philippine Islands, as players took profit ahead of the weekend.

The main index finished 1.7 percent or 26.94 points lower at 1,555.01 points. The market is up 7.81 percent so far this year.

Analysts said investors took profit on PLDT ahead of the result of a proposal by its banner mobile firm, Smart Communications Inc., to buy P20.5 billion of unrestructured debt from the creditors of affiliate Pilipino Telephone Corp. (Piltel).

The deadline for the debt exchange transaction was 5 p.m. yesterday. *Reuters*

Lucio Tan gets another board seat in VMC

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

LUCIO Tan-owned Tanduay Holdings Inc. clinched another board seat in sugar miller Victorias Milling Corp. yesterday with the election of an existing shareholder and Tanduay executive in the company's 11-member board.

Other shareholders led by the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines challenged the election, claiming there was "conspiracy" involved.

Elected to the board was Tanduay president Wilson Young who was nominated as an existing shareholder of the sugar miller and for his expertise in turning around moribund companies as part of his previous work in auditing firm SyCip Gorres Velayo & Co., sources said.

Young, however, was not present during the stockholders' meeting as he was out of the country.

Aside from Young, Lucio Tan's brother and Tanduay director and treasurer Mariano Tanenglian was also earlier named to the board by virtue of a reserved board seat for VMC's strategic partner, Tanduay.

Last year, Tanduay granted a P300-million loan to VMC to help it implement its rehabilitation plan. Payment of the loan will be made

LUCIO/ B5

BSP says inflation to stay within target

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said the country's inflation rate would likely average at a manageable 4.1-4.2 percent this year, or at the low end of the government's forecast range of 4-5 percent.

However, the rate is expected to rise to 4.7-4.8 percent next year as consumer prices absorb the full impact of cost-side factors such as volatile movements in crude oil prices, transport fare adjustments, possible increases in utility charges, mounting calls for wage adjustments as well as a possible currency depreciation.

But the inflation forecast for this year and in 2005, presented by BSP research officer-in-charge Iluminada Sicat in a briefing yesterday, would still be well within the government's projected range of 4-5 percent over the two-year period.

"The BSP maintains its assessment of a manageable inflation outlook over the policy horizon," Sicat said. These projections are based on the 1994 consumer price index released by the National Statistics Office.

Asked why inflation is expected to accelerate at a faster pace next year, BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said: "There are cost factors that are affecting inflation this year but the full impact is not going to be felt until 2005."

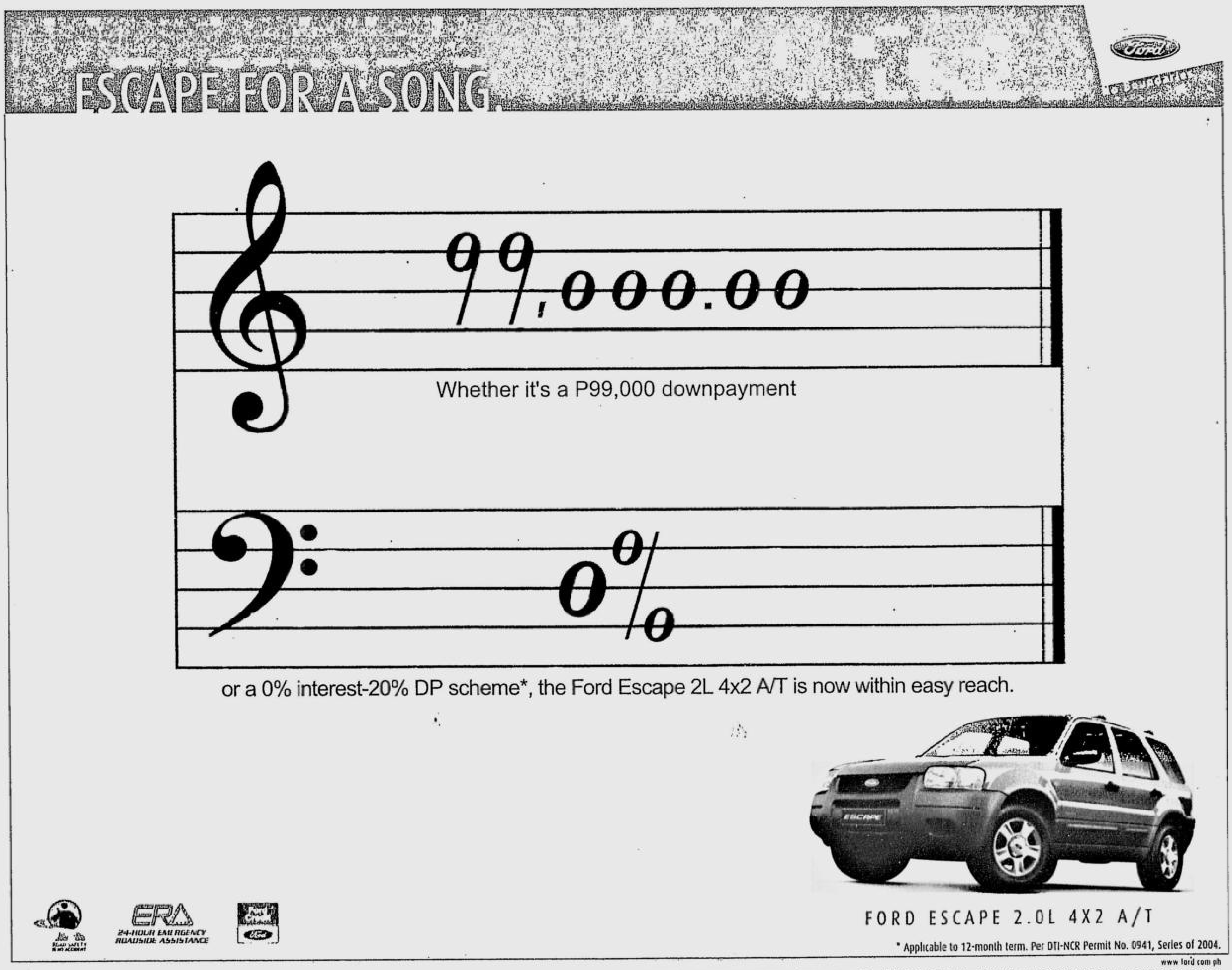
For instance, he noted that any possible wage adjustments, even if implemented this year, were not likely to exert too much pressure on consumer prices until next year.

Aside from cost-push factors, the BSP's expectation of a moderate rise in inflation this year factored in demand-pull pressures arising from the recovery in world economic growth and expansion in domestic economic activity.

The BSP is likewise bracing for sentiment-driven pressure in the foreign exchange market partly due to political developments and concerns over the attainability of the government's fiscal consolidation over the medium-term.

But Tetangco reiterated that for as long as inflation was within the government's forecast, the BSP would not be under pressure to follow the expected tightening by the US Federal Reserve.

BSP/ B5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PASASALAMAT
SA MANGGAGAWA
ARAW NG PAGGAWA

Araw ng Paggawa, Pasasalamat sa Manggagawa

PROGRAMA

Lugar:	Yazaki Torres Compound,Lungsod ng Calamba, Laguna
Oras	**Aktibidad**
	Tampok na Programa Kasama ang Pangulo
1:00 n.h.	Pagtitipon ng mga kalahok
2:00	Kasayahan at Raffle
3:00	Pagdating ng Pangulo Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
3:02	Pambungad na Pagbati *Kalihim ng Paggawa* *Patricia A. Sto. Tomas*
3:05	"Pulong Bayan" Kasama ang Pangulo *Tagapangasiwa: Kalihim Sto. Tomas*
3:45	Ang Tugon ng Pangulo

Lugar:	World Trade Center, Lungsod ng Pasay
5:15	Pag-aabot ng Workers' Manifesto G. Democrito Mendoza, Ramon Jabar, Vladimir Tupaz at Victorino Balais
5:20	Tugon ng Pangulo Paggawad ng Pangulo ng Order of the Golden Heart Award sa mga sumusunod: - Eulogio R. Lerum, NLU - Juan C. Tan, FFW - Democrito T. Mendoza, TUCP

Lugar:	Ninoy Aquino Stadium, Manila
7:15 n.g.	Libreng Concert, "Alay sa Manggagawa"

MGA GAWAIN NG PASASALAMAT

Inagurasyon ng 22 silid-aralan ng CGMA

Sa unang linggo ng Mayo, kaalinsabay ng pagdiriwang ng Araw ng Paggawa, pasisinayaan ng DOLE, DepEd, DFA, at Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. ang 22 silid-aralan— karagdagan sa 44 na natapos na—sa ilalim ng Programang "Classroom Galing sa Mama-mayang Pilipino Abroad" sa mga sumusunod:

- Paaralang Elementarya ng Camarin D, Camarin, Lungsod ng Caloocan
- Mataas na Paaralang Marcelo H. del Pilar, Lungsod ng Malolos
- Paaralang Elementarya ng Sto. Domingo, Lubao, Pampanga
- Paaralang Elementarya ng San Nicolas, Lubao, Pampanga
- Paaralang Elementarya ng Mojon, Talisay, Lungsod ng Cebu
- Mataas na Paaralang Pambayan ng Dumanjug Dumanjug, Lungsod ng Cebu
- Mataas na Paaralang Pambayan ng Koronadal Lungsod ng Koronadal, Hilagang Cotabato
- Paaralang Elementarya ng Kamanga, Ag-ag ResettlementArea Isulan, Sultan Kudarat
- Mataas na Paaralang Pambayan ng Poblacion Polomolok Polomolok, Hilagang Cotabato
- Mataas na Paaralang Pambayan ng Baguio, Lungsod ng Baguio

Libreng panonood ng PBA

Magdiriwang ang PBA ng Araw ng Paggawa sa pamama-gitan ng paghahandog ng libreng nakasisiyang laro ng basketball. Ipakita lamang ang sumusunod na patunay ng pagbili at puwedeng nang manood mula sa gallery section sa Araneta Coliseum:

1. Resibo ng gas at iba pang supplies mula sa Shell;
2. Tansan o lata ng beer ng San Miguel;
3. Bote ng Red Bull Barako;
4. Pre-paid cards ng Talk 'n' Text Phone Pals;
5. Resibo ng FedEx;
6. Tansan ng anumang nakaboteng produkto ng Ginebra San Miguel; at
7. Tatak ng anumang produkto ng Alaska

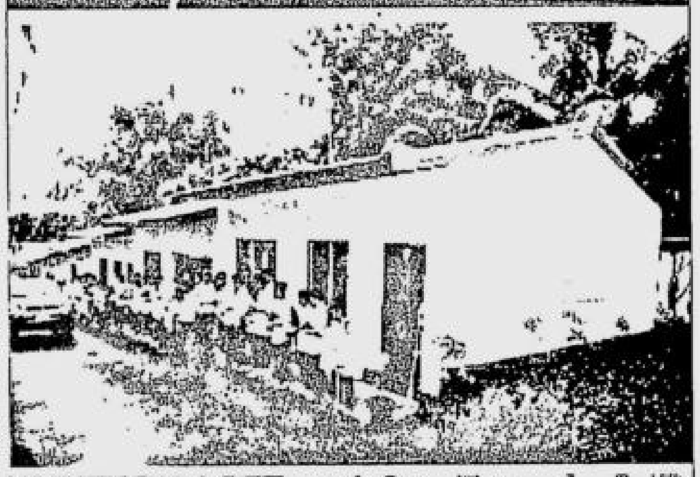
Libreng sakay sa LRT at MRT

Mula alas 7:00 hanggang alas 9:00 ng umaga at mula alas 5:00 hanggang alas 7:00 ng gabi, ang mga manggagawa, kanilang pamilya, at ang publiko ay makakasakay ng libre sa LRT at MRT ngayong Mayo 1.

Libreng Concert

Isang libreng pagtatanghal, "Alay sa Manggagawa," ang ihahandog bilang marapat na pagtatapos ng pagdiriwang. Ito'y gagawin sa Ninoy Aquino Stadium, Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, Adriatico St., Manila. Sina G. Leo Martinez at Bb. Joyce Jimenez ang mga punong abala. Mga tampok na artista at mang-aawit: Sarah Geronimo, Freddie Aguilar, Bayani Agbayani, Renz Verano, Jong Cuenco, Gee-Girls, Interactive Band, Jem Ramos, Salbakuta, Nyoy Volante, Three Tenors at marami pang iba.

MEGA
ORT
KABUHAYAN



Job Fairs

Region	Venue	No. of Participating Employers	Vacancies
NCR	Freedom Triangle, Taft Ave. Arroceros, Manila	50	
CAR	SM City, Lucena Hill Baguio City	8	Clerks, service crews, engineers management trainees, accountants IT/computer-related works, factory workers
2	Cagayan National High School, Tuguegarao City	6	DHs, construction workers, engineers, service crews, clerks, IT encoders
3	Provincial Gymnasium Iba, Zambales	8	Nurses, medical related workers, construction workers, engineers, service crews
4A	Pacita Satellite Office San Vicente, San Pedro Laguna	34	HR specialists, civil engineers, group sales personnel, company nurses, purchasing associates, mechanical technicians, electricians, section head-food services, researchers, writers, HR researchers/analysts, production supervisors, engineers
5	LANDCO Business Park Legazpi City	6	Medical workers, DHs, caregivers, construction workers
6	Provincial Capitol Iloilo City	12	Medical workers, caregivers, engineers professionals
7	National Sports Complex Abellana National High School, Cebu City	30	Engineers, caregivers, factory workers, construction workers, clerks, accounting-related workers
8	DOLE Training Center DOLE Compound	10	Medical workers, DHs, construction engineers, caregivers
9	Plaza Pershing Zamboanga City	17	Household helpers, drivers, helpers, laborers, professionals, skilled workers, doctors, nurses, caregivers, teachers, factory workers, carpenters, construction workers
10	Entrance 2, Limketkai Mall Cagayan de Oro City	18	Household helpers, drivers, helpers, laborers, accountants, engineers, medical workers, nurses, caregivers, commerce, management graduates
11	Gaisano Mall, Davao City SM Mall, Davao City	15	
12	DOLE Region 12 Office AYS Bldg., 171 Sinsuat Ave., Cotabato City	7	Caregivers, nurses, PTs, resident therapists, medical workers, factory workers, restaurant staff positions, domestic helpers, electricians, technicians, mechanical and utility operators
CARAGA	DOLE-CARAGA Office 3/F, LCT Building P. Burgos St., Butuan City	12	Construction workers, DHs, engineers, medical workers

OFW Family Day at Misyong Medikal

Ang OFW Family Day ay taunang ginagawa ng OWWA upang higit pang paigtingin ang pagsasama-sama ng pamilya ng OFW. Ito ay isang araw ng pagsasaya at pasasalamat sa mga bagong bayani ng bansa. Ngayong taon, ito ay gaganapin sa Araw ng Paggawa sa 16 rehiyon at katatampukan ng mga palaro, raffle, at pagkakaloob ng serbisyong medikal at iba pang pangunahing serbisyo ng pamahalaan. Mamamahagi rin ang DOLE ng "claim vouchers" sa ilalim ng "Groceria Project." Ang "claim vouchers" ay siyang magsisilbing pasaporte ng sinumang benepisyaryo para makuha ang P50,000 halaga ng grocery items mula sa SM Supermarket.

- OSHC, North Avenue, Quezon City
- SM City, Luneta Hill, Baguio City
- Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University, Apilado Hall, San Fernando, La Union
- Cagayan National High School, Tuguegarao City
- SM City Pampanga
- Bucal Elementary School Gym, Brgy. Bucal, Calamba, Laguna
- City Piso Training Center, Valencia St. Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
- Metro Gaisano, Landco Business Park, Legazpi City
- SM City Iloilo
- Family Day - Cebu Coliseum, Cebu City Medical Mission
- Cebu City Sports Center, Cebu City
- DOLE Region 8 Office, Trece Martirez, Tacloban City
- Golf Course Beach Resort, Zamboanga City
- SM City, Cagayan de Oro
- University of Mindanao Gym, Matina, Davao City
- Family Day – Biton Garden Catering Services, Cotabato City
- Medical Mission - DOLE Region 12 Office, Cotabato City
- Family Day – St. Peter Seminary Recreation Center, Butuan City
- Medical Mission – DOLE-CARAGA Office, Butuan City

Sales at Discounts

Mga commercial establishments na nakikiisa:

Alabang Town Center (Mallwide)
Shoe Mart Department Store (Mallwide)
- SM Centerpoint, Sta. Mesa, Manila
- SM West, North Edsa, Quezon City
- SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
- SM Baguio, Luneta Hill, Baguio City

Festival Supermall Alabang (Mallwide)
Shopwise-Rustan's Supercenters, Inc. (Mallwide)
- Alabang
- Makati
- Libis, Quezon City

Gotesco Grand Central (Selected stores)
Isetann Department Store (Selected stores)
Greenbelt Shopping Plaza (Selected stores)
Robinson's Department Store (Selected stores)

All branches of:
- Artwork, Inc.
- Bleue Tab Jeans
- Cardam's Shoes and Bags
- Centropell Marketing Corporation
- Ceramic Plaza, Inc.
- Cinderella Boutique
- Freeway (Elite Garments International)
- Guess Jeans
- Le Donne Shoes
- Leaveland
- Marcella
- Manel's Leather Goods
- Oceanic 1911 Gifts and Jewelry
- Picture City
- Sports House
- Toby Sports

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

Bad loans of rural, co-op banks declining, says BSP

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE NON-PERFORMING loans of rural banks and cooperative banks as a ratio of their total loans declined to 11.92 percent in the last quarter of 2003, from 13.4 percent in the previous quarter.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said the decline in the NPL ratio of these banks was brought about by the 9.4-percent reduction in their actual NPLs to P6.58 billion as well as the 1.9 percent expansion in their total loan portfolio to P55.24 billion.

The sector's 11.92-percent NPL ratio as of end-2003 likewise represented a significant improvement over the 13.85 percent as of end-2002.

"The improvement in the NPL ratio was evident across the three major geographical regions of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao," the BSP said.

The Visayas region enjoyed the biggest drop in the NPL ratio from the previous quarter of 2.25 percentage points to 12.9 percent; followed by Luzon, 1.57 percentage points to 12.26 percent, and Mindanao, 0.71 percentage point to 9.83 percent.

"With the reduction in both restructured loans and real and other properties owned or acquired (ropoa) in the last quarter of 2003, the decline in NPLs meant actual collection of bad loans," the BSP explained.

The BSP also noted that in the second semester of 2003, the rapid commercialization of microfinance based on sound credit principles had contributed significantly to business opportunities for rural banks.

The non-performing assets of the industry as a ratio to total assets likewise improved to 15.18 percent as of end-2003, from 16.98 percent in the previous quarter.

The sector's NPAs fell by 8 percent to P13.91 billion from P15.12 billion as gross NPLs and ropoas declined in the last quarter.

In the meantime, the NPA and NPL coverage ratio—or the reserves put up to cover these non-performing assets—further strengthened to 36.46 percent and 18.67 percent, respectively. A year ago, the NPA coverage ratio stood lower at 18.14 percent and the NPL coverage ratio at 14.56 percent.

Piltel posts Q1 profit of ₱8M

By Clarissa S. Batino

PILIPINO Telephone Corp. yesterday said it had returned to profitability in the first quarter, posting a net income of P8 million.

Piltel, a subsidiary of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., finally returned to the black after seven straight years of losses.

A turnaround from a net loss of P360.2 million in the same period last year, Piltel's first quarter performance improved largely due to the increasing subscriber take-up of its Talk N' Text mobile phone brand.

Officials, however, say the figure is still subject to the approval of the company's board.

Piltel said Talk N' Text subscribers grew to more than 3 million in the first three months from more than 2.8 million as of end-2003.

Nazareno said the company's performance from January to March was well within its target of hitting P400 million in net income by the end of the year.

Piltel started posting losses in 1997 when the Asian crisis resulted in the swelling of its dollar debt, aggravating its operational problems then. The company failed to maximize its previous wireless technology and to adopt to a system that could offer text messaging services.

Last year, the company's net loss shrunk to P3.35 billion from P21.83 billion in the previous year. Piltel even managed to earn P540 million from operations in 2003.

"The first quarter has been favorable in terms of financial results largely due to subscriber base take-up. All indicators showed good results," Piltel chair Napoleon Nazareno earlier told reporters.

PLDT owns about 92 percent of Piltel but its cash-rich subsidiary Smart is planning to acquire the stake in exchange for Piltel's P20.5 billion in debt.

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Transco speeds up implementation of Mindoro projects

By Abigail L. Ho

TO help boost Oriental Mindoro's potential as a key tourist destination, National Transmission Corp. (Transco) committed to fast-track the implementation of transmission-related projects in the area.

The target is to complete these projects six months to one year ahead of schedule.

Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz said in an interview Thursday that the state firm would bring its Small Island Submarine Interconnection Development (SISID) program to Oriental Mindoro in line with its overall transmission development plan.

The Mindoro project is scheduled for completion in the fourth quarter of 2006 or the first half of 2007, "if we do it right," Ortiz said.

He said that the implementation of the Leyte-Cebu interconnection and capacity uprating project was key to kicking off the country's transmission line loop, which would include Mindoro.

"Now that we are uprating that, CNP (Cebu-Negros-Panay) becomes feasible. With CNP becoming feasible, SISID becomes feasible as it will now link Boracay and connect it to Semirara and Mindoro, making the link complete," he told reporters.

In the meantime, the Department of Energy, National Power Corp., Transco, and the provincial government of Oriental Mindoro yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement that signaled the start of the power development program for the province.

Under the agreement, both the provincial and national governments committed to do their respective tasks in ensuring adequate and reliable supply of energy in Oriental Mindoro.

Right now, Oriental Mindoro has a peak demand of around 26.5 megawatts, with an installed capacity of 52.7 MW. However, of this installed capacity, only around 36.8 MW is considered dependable.

The MOA directs Napocor's Small Power Utilities Group (SPUG) to install a 32.4-MW modular generating set in the area to replace Power Barge 102 in Puerto Galera, which has been due for transfer to the power-hungry Panay group of islands this week.

Aklan electric co-op turnaround cited

BUSINESS leaders in Aklan and Boracay recently hailed a landmark improvement in the performance of Aklan Electric Cooperative (Akelco), which has given a significant boost to the province's tourism industry.

Boracay Foundation president Nenette Graf said local tourist establishments "are now able to better provide world-class service due to the more stable and reliable power supply to the island."

This is crucial in the country's bid to compete with other tourist destinations in the Asian region, she added.

Graf made the statement during the second anniversary of the new Akelco management.

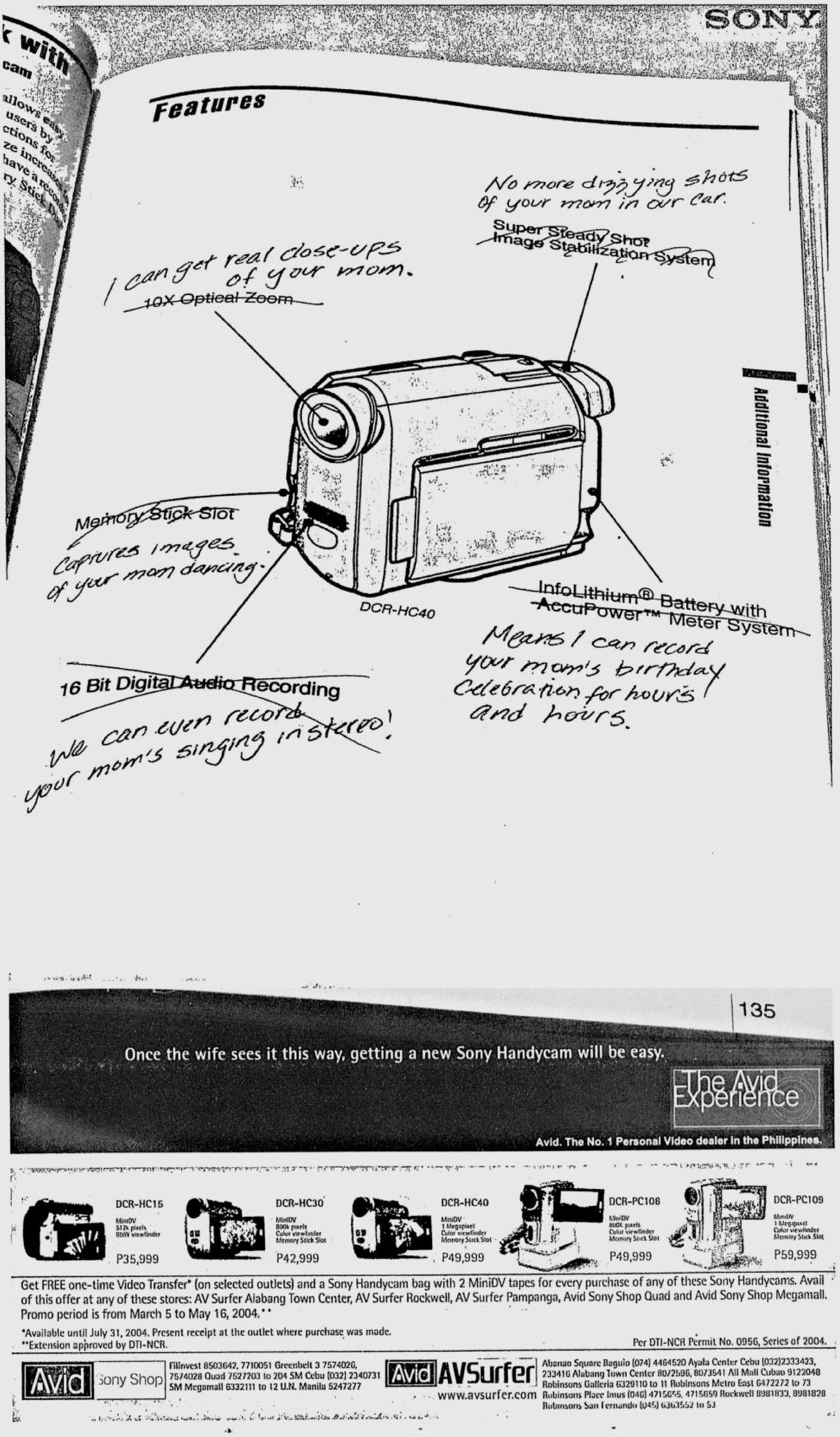
The change in management in April 2002 was ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo after operators of tourism facilities in the area complained of frequent and prolonged brownouts resulting in operating problems and financial losses.

Graf noted that under the new management, "Akelco's collection efficiency has gone up, systems losses has gone down that translates to a healthier fiscal condition for the cooperative."

According to Erico Bucoy, Akelco general manager, the cooperative's collection efficiency is now close to 95 percent. It is also current on its Napocor and National Transmission Corp. (Transco) payments.

In the meantime, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said a recent memorandum of agreement signed between Akelco and Transco for the sale of sub-transmission assets to the cooperative "is a historic moment for the country's cooperatives movement."

Perez said the dramatic turnaround of Akelco "is evidenced by its transformation from a moribund co-op to one that is now ready to own and manage its sub-transmission assets."



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DCR-PC109
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Color viewfinder
Memory Stick Slot
P59,999

Get FREE one-time Video Transfer* (on selected outlets) and a Sony Handycam bag with 2 MiniDV tapes for every purchase of any of these Sony Handycams. Avail of this offer at any of these stores: AV Surfer Alabang Town Center, AV Surfer Rockwell, AV Surfer Pampanga, Avid Sony Shop Quad and Avid Sony Shop Megamall. Promo period is from March 5 to May 16, 2004.**

*Available until July 31, 2004. Present receipt at the outlet where purchase was made.
**Extension approved by DTI-NCR.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0956, Series of 2004.

Avid Sony Shop
Filinvest 8503642, 7710051 Greenbelt 3 7574026, 7574028 Quad 7527203 to 204 SM Cebu (032) 2340731 SM Megamall 6332111 to 12 U.N. Manila 5247277

Avid AVSurfer
www.avsurfer.com
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Day before publication
Sundays
12:00 noon
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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
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LIGHT 5301315 / 5268216

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BEST MAIDS 741-6863

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GOOD MAID YAYA 9201019

GOOD MAIDS YAYA INT COOK BOY DRIVER 7572089/7284093

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

MAIDS W/NBI-REF. 4392490

NEED MAIDS 783-4613

QUALITY MAIDS 421-3828

BEST MAIDS 8250754

ANGEL MAIDS 4213253

RELIABLE MAIDS, 5628581

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L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

LBAHAY 7113540

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

MISCELLANEOUS

NEED HOUSE ELECTRICALS or REPAIRS Call Nelson 0919-4445904 or 7495881

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

FF 33m² w/mezz P3.2M G/F Regalia park 0919-2737847

LAGUNA

3Storey w/Roof Commercial Bldg. 161sqm • 778-1541

HOUSE & LOT

KALOOCAN

CAMARIN CAL CITY LA 240m² FA 104m² 2Bdrms 1T&B P1.2M Vic / Gle 8903461 loc 27

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.7M 9487112

QUEZON CITY

623sqm 10M neg with 3doors Apt 2stry T.Sora Ave 9270536

GOODWILL HOMES 12Sty LA 120m² FA 156.10m² 4BR 2T&B P1M Vic 8903461 loc 27

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Proj8 400m² 5.5M 9202001

RUSH SALE !!!
NEGOTIABLE
SAMAR AVE
nr GMA7 QC
4BR3TB 375m² 8.5M Bungalow
Tita 09194014983 /9511624

BRANDNEW HOUSE AT 17 SAMAR AVE. 0918-4491555

RIZAL

A PRIME SUBD 2BR 1T&B LA 170m² FA 72m² P1.3M Vic 8903461 loc 25 / 27

House & lot 4Sale 873-6414

OTHER PROVINCIAL

BULACAN P. DAMASO
BALIWAG 343sqm. 7835272

CAVITE

TAGAYTAY VACATION HOUSE VACANT LOT 6500M² 1,000/M TEL 7342503 04

LAGUNA

LAGUNA BEL-AIR LA 132m² 3Bdrms 2T&B FA84m² P1.85M Vic 8903461 loc 27/25

METROVILLE SUBD LA 122m² 2Bdrms 1T&B FA 61.28m² P1.2M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA210m² LA 78m² P1.9M Vic 8903461 loc 27/25

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8313226

ORIENTAL GARDENS PTamo stud 33sqm P1.9M dlvry Sept 04 few units left 889-3335

MANILA

Espana Tower 949T 09208309744

nr UST, ESPANA TOWER
6873372 0917-8102903

PASIG

Ortigas 1br 85sqm 520-0075

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

LAGUNA

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CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

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4260531/4391995/9117498

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

Apt Proj.8 4&7drs U/D 778-1541

LAGUNA

Ur Own Home 2ST 3BR 3TB Plus 2 One BR Apts Metroville Sta Rosa Lag P1.7M Popoy 09175441746

LOT

ALABANG

Alabang 500sqm 520-0075

KALOOCAN

KALOOKAN 6th AVE COR F ROXAS 1332SQM COR C3 TEL 7342504/03

RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

MAKATI

Pque Grnhts Lot 4 Sale Emma 823-4737 0917-6654184

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA 333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

QUEZON CITY

C.Verde P6T/m² 044-6627285

★AYALA HILLS★
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MRS. GASTON 931-2938/48
AYALA LAND BROKER

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS
choice lots w/ view
426-5650•929-1832

Commonwealth 100m²-26T/m²
NR EVER 0918-4491555

VILLA ESPANA LA 108.50m² P12,000/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PROVINCIAL

BEACH LOT 1240m² bchfrnt P5.2M Panglao Is. Bohol whtesnd 25 mins drive fr. City also avail. 8157sqm Call Virgie 4712459 / 5257733 / 5232050

RIZAL

Alg Smulong Antpolo 3749m²
good4gas station 09178102903

OTHER AREAS

•TAGAYTAY VIEW LOTS•
6,500/sqm w/ Club & Golf
Membership (also offered)
5 yrs. to pay interest free
524-7900 0917-8990816

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

OTHER AREAS

TOWN & COUNTRY LA 240m² P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

VILLA LIGAYA LA 149m² & 134m² P3,534/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

OTHER PROVINCIAL

HACIENDA LUISITA TARLAC
338sqm P2700/m² with terms
0916-4555733 ; 9208161551

BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA 613m² P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL LA 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA 128m² P2,900/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA LA 371m² P2,650/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA 120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m² LA240m² Vic8903461loc25/27

MEMORIAL LOT

Mla Memorial Sucat 718-2830

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL LA 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

ALABANG

141 Batangas West Ayala
Alabang 5BR 5TB w/s-pool
Nicole 09175265778

MAKATI

Bful Magallanes 90T 8691937

MANILA

2br 523 Montana Sampaloc 731-1002 / 09173278913 Boy

PASIG

Rosario 4BR 2TB 2Grge
Tel. 18T/mo • 0917-5367040
655-06-91 Dr. Lao

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Mkt 1-2br/studio P8Tup no due free prkg tel/secu 897-9417

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

EDSA CALOOCAN 3FLRS COML W/BODEGA 3612663 3610652

MAKATI

2Bdrm/ U/Dn T8973770 / 1Cr StgH2O/Npnt/Screen/Cmpd

Up & Down Near Buendia Cash & Carry Tel 747-0101

2BR Grg nr Buendia 12T Tel # 8441669

MANILA

1&3BR nr P.GIL 5634007 8090380

840 P.Noval NR UST Tel 7313035 7361925 9289541

MIGUELIN St Balic2 2BR/unit 7500 Access to all 7491526

MANDALUYONG

1BR U/D 418 Bulalakaw Bck Mun Hall 5334951, 5318254

STUDIO TYPE GRGE 533-6425

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

PASIG

P8,000 screened 42sqm 2stry 1-3 only w/o kids 6354244 4 Sn Clemente Kapitolyo

QUEZON CITY

2STY 2BR with Carport 1ride to SM North, NIA Village Tandang Sora Call 9265264

Brnd new studio type Proj 2
4342604 / 0919-2876641

Cubao Apartel 9957167-68

Near Camp Aguinaldo
3BR 2TB call 9114510

Studio Apts Furnished Unfurnished 10-12T with Parking Nice Garden No Pets #8 Ilang-ilang St. New Mla QC Tel. 7221605; 09178114691

ROOM & BOARD

Mkt.M/F Day/Mon.Nice 8906374

Proj3 lady 3T studio 9137513

Studio SAN ANDRES 5631584

BEDSPACE

SPACIOUS LADIES BED SPACES NR LA SALLE TAFT TEL#5223923

BUSINESS RENTAL

Cubao coml/ofc 9957167-68

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.4%MONTHLY=8976644 to 46 LAS PINAS=8736236 & 4098 QUEZON CITY=3730239 to 40

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L BUSINESS PERSONAL Gigie Ernie 8903461 loc 25/23

BUILDING FOR LEASE

COML BLDG 135m² NR HWAY TINASAN MUNT • 850-2717

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Unit 1901-A Tektite Tower 1 (East) Exchange Rd. Ortigas Cntr, Pasig City AREA: 52.91 sqm. Pls. contact 634-6841/ 43 Phoebe Mallorca

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

COMMERCIAL

SALE/LEASE
RESTAURANT Loc in Dapitan St. near UST, Good Location Good Furnitures & Equipment Tina 731-3402 • 0917-8358887

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HYUNDAI

STAREX 1999 P500T 9seater White Diesel 1st Owned 8437633•8437637•8437539

TOYOTA

'97 Prado Dubai Version Cell 0917-8373065

ALTIS 2002 Black A/T 1.6J •0916-6878481•

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

1T/Hiace 9136710/4333682

A.Toyco Coaster Car Vans Rental (02)8023022/8006595

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CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8969956

L300 VAN 8738947 09163443087

MB 7415897•09208328657

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

REVO w/driver 9272821

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CAR LOAN 6567685

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 533-8254

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

BUSN DRS OFW 524-3197

1.5% 1HR CAR LOAN 3743803

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

Sale/Rental/Servce 8014494

24T New Compt Sr imptd 7767507

PETS

PCCI
ANNUAL MEETING
OF VOTING MEMBERS
& ELECTION OF
OFFICERS
2:00 PM, 15 May 2004
Lakandula Function Room
Sulo Hotel, Quezon City
Deadline for submission
of proxies
5:00 PM, May 10, 2004
at the PCCI Office

BUY/SELL

EDUCATION PLANS 780-0106

GARAGE SALE

ALL GARAGE SALE 873-6414

PETS

Boxer 3Mos. 10T 3030278

Lab Pups By Ph Ch 09179353556

Labrador Pups 657-0532

PHILIPPINE DOG SCHOOL TRAINS SCIENTIFICALLY Sale: German Sheperd Pups
TEL. 721-37-36

*PUGS "WRINKLED" 3725231

Rott Pups 0917-8965664

SHARPEI PUPS US 3725231

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GYM MACHINES 20 Sets All 4 Sale for Business P1M Tel. No. (074)446-4844

WANTED TO BUY

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7220433 • 4123543

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
PawnTickets, Loans 5%
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice is given of lost Dealers Confirmation Cert. issued 6/1/99 consist of 1 engine 4BCI-118347 sold to Power Supply & Well Management Company purchased at Kaliraya Coml Co. w/ sales invoice 18893 on 5/29/99. (PDI-May 1,2004)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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For Rent or Sale Parlor Spa w/complete facilities Makati 0917-8114261

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JEWELRY NO CAPITAL CONSIGN TRMS MST B EMPLOYD 984-2865

HIRING

SECRETARY

- Female, single
- Below 30 years old, New Graduate welcome
- College graduate in Business Majors

DRIVER

- Male, below 35 years old
- with experience at least 3 years

Bring bio-data w/picture, necessary doc. Look for Ms. Aslyn Tel. 6119663

Technical Master, Trading Corp.
2C Greenrich Mansion, Pearl Drive, Pasig City

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND
REGULATORY BOARD
Region VI, Iloilo City

FAST CARGO LOGISTICS, CORP. CASE NO. 02-VI-801 ILO
Applicant/Petitioner/s

NOTICE

Petitioner request authority for the amendment of line in a CPC to operate a TH TRUCK service from the line: ILOILO CITY to any point of Panay, to the line: ILOILO CITY to any point in the Philippines, with the use of four (4) units.

This application/petition shall be considered by the Board on MAY 6, 2004 at 9:00 a.m., at its office at LTFRB Building, Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City, on which date applicant/petitioner shall formally submit all its/his/her evidences.

At least five (5) days prior to the date of hearing, applicant/petitioner shall publish this **NOTICE** once in any newspaper of general circulation in the whole Philippines, and to send by **REGISTERED MAIL with RETURN CARD**, a copy of the application/petition and notice of hearing to the affected operators listed per Annex "A" hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of this application/petition must file their written opposition supported by the documentary evidence submitted by the parties unless the Board deems it necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.

WITNESS, THE HONORABLE, PORFIRIO L. CLAVEL, JR., Regional Director this 21st day of April 2004.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ROMEL D. DURON
Hearing Officer

(PDI - May 1, 2004)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

TELEMARKETER,over 40 yrs,
Male,college grad,P20T/mo
Plus comm., 1 to 8PM
Fax resume to 8863615
Attn: Ms. TERESA SOLIS
Tel No.: 8432067

FEMALE

Cook 6, Yaya 4, H'girl 3, M'wife 8, Nurse 10, 8510250

SALES REP. Calabarzon Area 21-25yrs. old 724-7990

SECRETARY, Fem Single 21-25 yrs. Computer Literate Microsoft Office • 725-2936

MALE/FEMALE

4 A Person Want 2 Earn P15T or more 8976276-77

ACCTG CLERK INT'L ENGR MECH ENGR TRUCK MECH MACHINE OPTR FACTORY WRK IMPLICARE INTL 4216808

BARBERO
MANICURISTA
CALL 9131603

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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BEAUTICIAN all arnd 5358006

BSBA graduate major in Marketing Call 936-09-57 / 0919-635-2254

English/Chemistry Teachers Zion Sch. 6557939 / 6568119

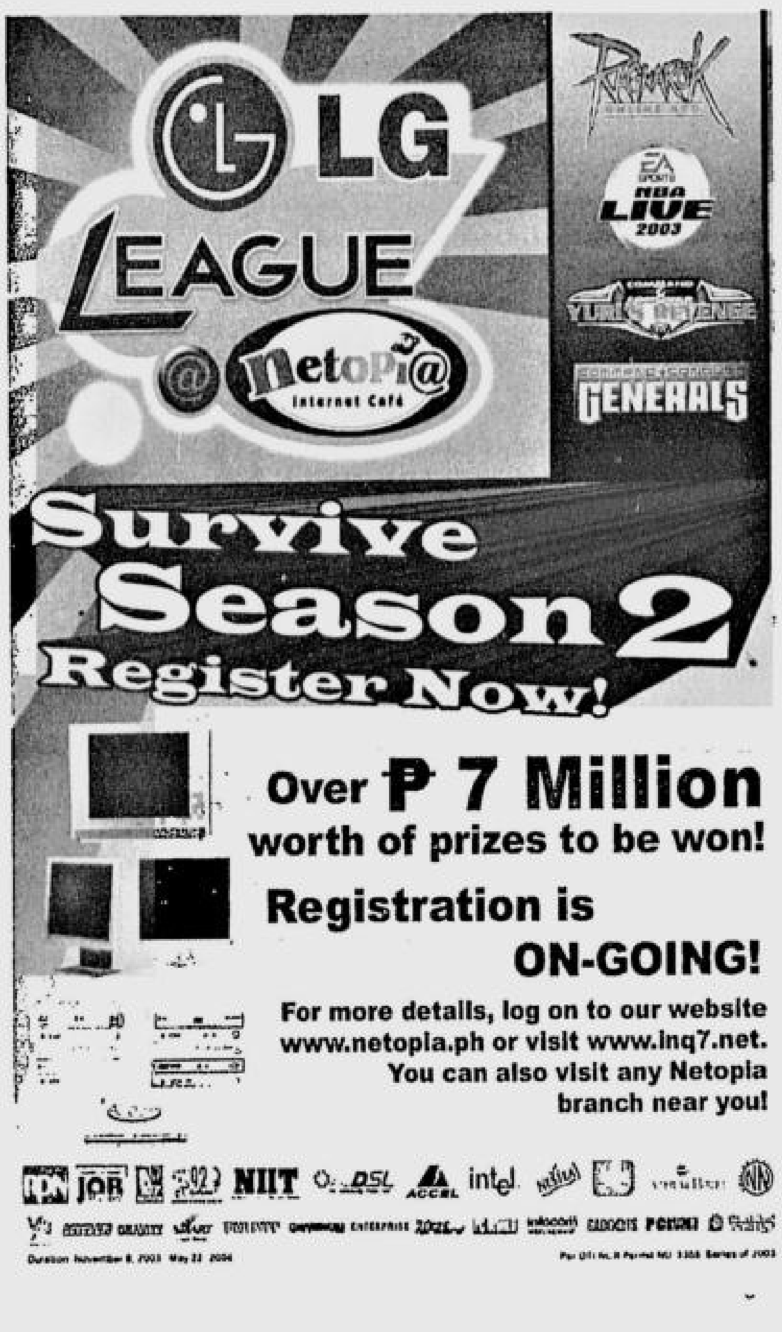
FREE CAREGIVER TRAINING PROGRAM W/CERTIFICATE 4043528 5899958 5280722

JOB HIRING 09167054572 AINA

KITCHEN CREW
College level pref. San Juan-Mand. area submit your bio-data & other req. #21 Gilmore Ave New Mla. QC 722-9261 / 0927-3843952

Part/fulltime Realst. Agent Hi Com 0917-6235747 Mon

Wanted English TEACHERS/
• 772-3942;43 •



PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of April 30, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	50,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17.5	17	17.5	71,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50	48.5	48.5	744,000
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	80
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	2,800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	39.5	39.5	39	39	15,500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	25	25.5	25	25	102,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.25	12.5	12.25	12.5	3,100
Security Bank Corp.	16.75	17	16.75	17	10,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	24	24	24	24	2,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1	25,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	215	215	215	215	100
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	50,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1470	1470	1465	1465	520
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.75	24.75	24.25	24.25	10,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	680,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	850	880	845	850	88,010
ISM Communications Corp.	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	100,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.68	1.7	16,454,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	200,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1125	1125	1075	1080	217,930
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	5,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.5	19.75	19.25	19.25	166,100
Manila Electric Co. B	30.5	31	30	30.5	569,400
Petron Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.25	2,311,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.36	1.44	1.36	1.42	407,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	41,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3	3	3	3	7,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	500,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	569,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28	28.5	28	28.5	17,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	20	20.75	20	20.5	544,800
RFM Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	59	59.5	59	59.5	76,500
San Miguel Corp. B	74	74.5	73.5	74.5	152,700
Universal Robina Corp.	6.7	7	6.7	7	1,445,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	1,333,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	256,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	140,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	50,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.56	5,060,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	400,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	2,100,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	28.5	28.5	28	28	892,000
Ionics Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	6,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.14	1.16	1.12	1.12	5,366,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	2,100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15.25	15	15.25	23,900
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	200,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.25	6,270,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	10,400,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	10,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	25,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	2,000
Pryce Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,710,000
Stoniel Manufacturing	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.52	0.5	0.51	880,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	230,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	170,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24.75	24.75	24	24	1,958,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	9,081,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	1,550,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	4,620,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	1,178,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.2	250,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	900,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	2,670,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	70,000
Omico Corp.	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	40,000

BSP says inflation . . .

From page B1

So far, growth in money and money demand in the country continued to be moderate in the first quarter. The average year-on-year growth in domestic liquidity or M3 stood at 4.9 percent to reach P1.7 trillion as of end-March, picking up from the 4.4 percent expansion in the previous month.

"This development can be traced to the expansion in both net foreign assets of the monetary system and the improvement in the level of net domestic credits to both the public and private sectors," BSP officer-in-charge Alberto Reyes said.

The steady growth in the net foreign assets was attributed to the increase in investments in foreign currency-denominated securities by banks and the BSP while the growth in overall demand for credit was reflective of the improvement in domestic demand.

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **Pilipino Telephone Corp.** were Napoleon Nazareno, Gregorio Atienza, Victor Chiongbian, Arturo Diago Jr., Ramoncito Fernandez, Enrique Filamor, Eduardo Gana, Edward Go, Carlos Pedrosa, Rolando Peña and Meliton Salazar.

* * *

ASIAN Terminals Inc. declared a cash dividend of P0.16 per share, payable on or before June 22 to stockholders of record as of May 28. Elected directors of the company were Richard Barclay, Jeremy Rickcord, Colin Childs, Arturo Lopez, Remy Tigulo, Eusebio Tanco, Richard Setchell, Nilo Peña, Ramon Atayde and Plardel Garcia.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Properties Inc. accepted the resignation of Dennis Lee as treasurer, VP finance and administration, corporate information officer and compliance officer. Lee Foo Tuck was elected as his replacement.

* * *

VITARICH Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 25. Record date is May 26.

* * *

PRIMEX Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 21 at 2 p.m. at the Valle Verde County Club in Pasig City. Record date is April 23.

* * *

CASHROUNDS Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 10 at 5 p.m. at the Oakwood Permier, Ayala Avenue, Makati. Record date is May 13.

* * *

CITYSTATE Savings Bank Inc. will hold its annual stakeholders' meeting on May 25 at 2 p.m. at the Citystate Centre Building in Pasig City. Record date is April 16.

* * *

PCI Leasing & Finance Inc. purchased an additional 520,000 of the company's shares at P1.32 per share pursuant to its shares buyback program.

* * *

BOCNOTAN Consolidated Industries Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 20 at 4 p.m. at the Makati Shangri-La, Makati City. Record date is April 20.

* * *

DIGITAL Telecommunication Philippines Inc. will holds its annual stockholders' meeting on May 31 at 10 a.m. at the Holiday Inn, Pasig City. Record date is April 15.

* * *

FILIPINO Fund Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 8 at 9 a.m. at the Manila Polo Club, Makati City. Record date is April 5.

* * *

EASYCALL Communications Phil. Inc. postponed its annual stockholders' meeting from May 11 to July 9. Record date is May 31. The board also accepted the resignation of Benedict Seballes as treasurer and appointed Conrado Favori as his replacement.

* * *

PHILIPPINE National Bank confirmed PNB president Lorenzo Tan's statement that the bank is expected to post a 19-percent income hike this year to P200 million from P168 million in 2003. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

Lucio Tan . . .

From page B1

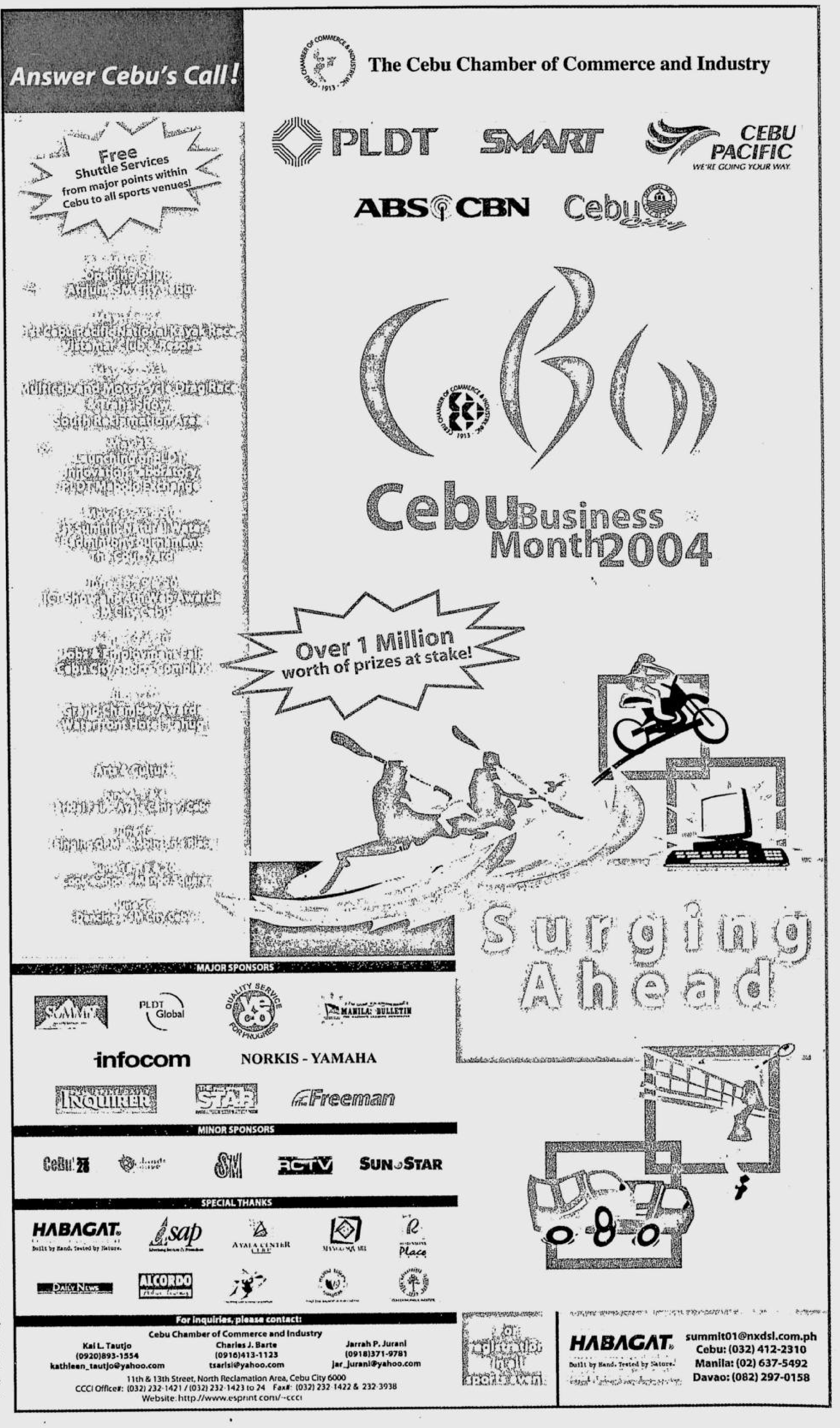
at the end of the fifth year. Tanduay can also choose to convert the loan into common shares in VMC at the end of the third year from April 2003 at a conversion rate of one common share for each P1 of the principal based on a par of P1 each share. The loan entitles Tanduay to one seat in VMC's board.

Under VMC's rehabilitation plan, which converts a chunk of the loans into equity or shares in the company, VMC reserves a seat for a joint-venture partner that has infused capital into the company, six seats for unsecured creditors that have chosen debt conversion, one seat for a secured creditor and three seats for existing shareholders.

Among unsecured lenders, one seat is occupied by Philippine National Bank, which is partly owned by Lucio Tan and is the biggest unsecured lender of VMC. PNB is represented by bank executive and VMC chair Omar Mier.

Sources familiar with the Tan group denied any conspiracy saying also it was a normal procedure for shareholders and directors to question those elected to the board.

Completing the eight board seats during yesterday's election were VMC president Arthur Aguilar and board director Abelardo Bugay representing existing shareholders; former central bank governor and KPMG Laya Mananghaya & Co. chair emeritus Jaime Laya representing PentaCapital; Jose Chan Jr. of Metrobank, Cecilia Borromeo of Land Bank, Alexis Borlaza of Export and Industry Bank, and Rogerio Panlasigui of Asiatrust Development Bank for unsecured creditors. Equitable PCI Bank executive Aristotle Villaraza represents the interest of secured creditors.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For inquiries, please contact:

Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Kai L. Tautjo
(0920)893-1554
kathleen_tautjo@yahoo.com

Charles J. Barte
(0916)413-1123
tsarlsi@yahoo.com

Jarrah P. Jurani
(0918)371-9781
jar_jurani@yahoo.com

11th & 13th Street, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City 6000
CCCI Office#: (032) 232-1421 / (032) 232-1423 to 24 Fax#: (032) 232-1422 & 232-3938
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Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION NO. 760

APPROVING THE 2004 REVISED SCHEDULE OF FEES AND SCHEDULE OF FINES AND GUIDELINES FOR ITS IMPOSITION

RESOLVED, as it is hereby RESOLVED, that the proposed 2004 Revised Schedule of Fees and Schedule of Fines and Guidelines for Its Imposition, attached as *Annex A* and forming an integral part thereof, be APPROVED, as it is hereby approved.

APPROVED, 18 February 2004, Quezon City, Metro Manila.

MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR
Chairman, HUDCC

EDUARDO R. SOLIMAN, JR.
Undersecretary, DILG

ROMULO Q. M. FABUL
Commissioner and
Chief Executive Officer

for:
AUGUSTO B. SANTOS
Deputy Director
General, NEDA

TERESITA A. DESIERTO
Commissioner

JOEL I. JACOB
DPWH

FRANCISCO L. DAGÑALAN
Commissioner

JESUS YAP PANG
Commissioner

Attested:

CHARITO B. LANSANG
Board Secretary

2004 SCHEDULE OF FEES

NAME OF FEE	FEE
I. ZONING/LOCATIONAL CLEARANCE	
A. Single residential structure attached or detached	
1. P100,000 and below	P 200
2. Over P100,000 to P200,000	400
3. Over P200,000	500+1/10 of 1% in excess of P200,000.
B. Apartments/Townhouses	
1. P500,000 and below	P 1,000
2. Over P500,000 to 2Million	1,500
3. Over 2Million	2,500 + 1/10 of 1% of cost in excess of P2 M regardless of the number of doors
C. Dormitories	
1. P2 Million and below	P 2,500
2. Over P2 Million	2,500 + 1/10 of 1% of cost in excess of P2 M regardless of the number of doors
D. Institutional Project cost of which is:	
1. Below P2 Million	P 2,000
2. Over P2 Million	2,000 + 1/10 of 1% of cost in excess of P 2M
E. Commercial, Industrial and Agro-Industrial Project Cost of which is:	
1. Below P100,000	P 1,000
2. Over 100,000-P500,000	1,500
3. Over P500,000-P1M	2,000
4. Over 1M - P2M	3,000
5. Over P 2 M	5,000 + 1/10 of 1% of cost in excess of P2 M
F. Special Uses/Special Projects Gasoline station, cell sites, slaughter house,treatment plant etc.)	
1. Below 2 Million	P 5,000
2. Over P2 Million	P 5,000 + 1/10 of 1% of cost in excess of P 2 M
G. Alteration/Expansion (affected areas/cost only)	Same as original application
II. SUBDIVISION AND CONDOMINIUM PROJECTS (under P.D. 957)	
A. Approval of Subdivision Plan (including town houses)	
1. Preliminary Approval and Locational Clearance (PALC)/ Preliminary Subdivision Development Plan (PSDP)	P 250/ha. or a fraction thereof
• Inspection Fee	P 1,000/ha. regardless of density
2. Final Approval & Development Permit	P 2,000/ha. regardless of density
• Additional Fee on Floor Area of houses and building sold with lot	P 2/sq. m.
• Inspection Fee (Not applicable for projects already inspected for PALC) / Preliminary	P 1,000/ha. regardless of density
3. Alteration of Plan (affected areas only)	Same as Final Approval & Dev't Permit
4. Certificate of Registration Processing Fee	P 2,000
5. License to Sell (per saleable lot)	P 150
• Additional Fee on Floor Area of houses & building sold with lot	P 10/sq. m.
• Inspection Fee *	P 1,000/ha. regardless of density
6. Certificate of Completion	
• Certificate Fee	P 150
• Processing Fee	P 2,000/has. regardless of density
7. Extension of Time to Develop	P 350
• Inspection Fee (affected /unfinished areas only)	P 1,000/ha. regardless of density

• Application for CR/LS with DP issued by LGUs shall be charged inspection fee

NAME OF FEE	FEE
B. Approval of Condominium Project Final Approval and Development Permit	
1. Processing Fee	
a. Land Area	P 5. /sq. m.
b. No. of Floors	P 200/floor
c. Building Areas	P 4./ sq. m.
•Inspection Fee	P 12/sq. m. of GFA
2. Alteration of Plan (affected areas only)	Same as Final Approval & Dev't Permit
3. Conversion (affected areas only)	- do -
4. Certificate of Registration	
• Processing Fee	P 2,000.
5. License to Sell	
a. Residential (saleable areas)	P 12/sq.m
b. Commercial/Office (saleable areas)	P 25/sq.m.
6. Extension of Time to Develop	
• Processing Fee	P 350
• Inspection Fee (affected/unfinished areas only)	P 12/sq.m of GFA
7. Certificate of Completion	
• Certificate Fee	P 150
• Processing Fee	P 12/sq.m of GFA
C. Projects under BP 220	
a. Subdivision	
1. Preliminary Approval and Locational Clearance	
a. Socialized Housing	P 75/ha.
b. Economic Housing	P 150/ha.
• Inspection Fee	
a. Socialized Housing	P 200/ha.
b. Economic Housing	P 500/ha.
2. Final Approval and Development Permit	
• Processing Fee	
a. Socialized Housing	P 500/ha
b. Economic Housing	P 1,000/ha.
• Processing Fee	
a. Socialized Housing	P 500/ha
b. Economic Housing	P 1,000/ha.
• Inspection Fee	
a. Socialized Housing	P 200/ha
b. Economic Housing (Projects already inspected for PALC application may not be charged inspection fee)	P 500/ha.
3. Alteration of Plan (affected areas only)	Same as Final Approval & Dev't Permit
4. Building Permit (floor area of housing unit)	P 5.00/sq. m.
5. Certificate of Registration	
• Application Fee	
a. Socialized Housing	P 350
b. Economic Housing	P 500
6. Licenses to Sell (per saleable lot)	
a. Socialized Housing	P 20/lot
b. Economic Housing	P 50/lot
(Additional fee on floor area of houses/building sold with lot)	P 2./sq.m.
• Inspection Fee *	
a. Socialized Housing	P 200/ha.
b. Economic Housing	P 500/ha.
7. Extension of Time to Develop	
• Filing Fee	
a. Socialized Housing	P 350
b. Economic Housing	P 350
• Inspection Fee (affected/unfinished areas only)	
a. Socialized Housing	P 200/ha.
b. Economic Housing	P 500/ha.
8. Certificate of Completion	
• Certificate Fee	
a. Socialized Housing	P 150
b. Economic Housing	P 150
• Processing Fee	
a. Socialized Housing	P 200/ha.
b. Economic Housing	P 500/ha

* Application for CR/LS with DP issued by LGUs shall be charged inspection fee

NAME OF FEE	FEE
9. Occupancy Permit	P 2. /s.m.
• Inspection Fee (saleable floor area of the housing unit)	
a. Socialized Housing	P 5/sq. meter
b. Economic Housing	P 5/sq. meter
b. Condominium	
1. Preliminary Approval and Locational Clearance	P 500
2. Final Approval and Development Permit	
a. Total Land Area	P 5/sq.m
b. Number of floor	P 100/floor
c. Building Area	P 2./sq.m. of GFA
• Inspection Fee	P 2/sq. m of GFA
3. Alteration of Plan (affected areas only)	Same as Final Approval & Devt'Permit
4. Certificate of Registration	P 500
5. License to Sell	P 5/sq. m.
6. Extension of Time to Develop	P 350
• Inspection Fee (FA x P2 x % of remaining devt.cost)	P 2/sq. m. of saleable area
7. Certificate of Completion	
• Certificate Fee	P 150
• Processing Fee	P 3/sq. m. of GFA
D. Approval of Industrial/Commercial Subdivision	
1. Preliminary Approval and Locational Clearance	P 300/ha.
• Inspection Fee	P 1,000/ha.regardless of location
2. Final Approval and Development Permit	P 5,000/ha. regardless of location
• Inspection Fee (Projects already inspected for PALC application may not be charged inspection fee)	P 1,000/ha.regardless of location
3. Alteration of Plan (affected areas only)	Same as Final Approval & Dev'tPermit
4. Certificate of Registration	P 2,000
5. License to Sell	P 2/sq. m. of the land area
• Inspection Fee *	P 1,000/ha.regardless of location
6. Extension of Time to Develop	P 350
• Inspection Fee (affected/unfinished areas only)	P 1,000 /ha
7. Certificate of Completion	
a. Industrial	P 350/ha regardless of location
b. Commercial	P 500/ha. regardless of location
E. Approval of Farmlot Subdivision	
1. Preliminary Approval and Locational Clearance	P 200/ha.
• Inspection Fee	P 500/ha.
2. Final Approval and Development Permit	P 1,000/ha.
• Inspection Fee	P 500/ha.

(Projects already inspected for PALC application may not be charged inspection fee)

NAME OF FEE	FEE
3. Alteration of Plan (affected areas only)	Same as Final Approval & Dev'tPermit
4. Certificate of Registration	P 2,000
5. License to Sell	P 500 /lot
• Inspection Fee *	P 1,000/lot
6. Extension of Time to Develop	P 350
• Inspection Fee (affected/unfinished areas only)	P 1,000/ha.
7. Certificate of Completion	
• Certificate Fee	P 150
• Processing Fee	P 1,000/ha.
F. Approval of Memorial Park/Cemetery Project/Columbarium	
1. Preliminary Approval and Locational Clearance	
a. Memorial Projects	P 500/ha.
b. Cemeteries	P 200/ha.
c. Columbarium	P 2,500/ha.
• Inspection Fee	
a. Memorial Projects	P 1,000/ha.
b. Cemeteries	P 500/ha.
c. Columbariun	P 12/sq.m. of GFA
2. Final Approval and Development Permit	
a. Memorial Projects	P 2/sq. m.
b. Cemeteries	P 1/sq. m.
c. Columbariun	P 200/floor P 4/sq.m. of GFA P 5/sq.m. of Land Area

* Application for CR/LS with DP issued by LGUs shall be charged inspection fee

NAME OF FEE	FEE
• Inspection Fee (Projects already inspected for PALC application may not be charged inspection fee)	
a. Memorial Projects	P 1,000/ha.
b. Cemeteries	P 500/ha.
c. Columbariun	P 12/sq.m. of GFA
3. Alteration Fee	Same as Final Approval/Dev't Permit
4. Certificate of Registration	P 2,000
5. Licenses to Sell	
a. Memorial Projects	P 50 /2.5 sq. m
- Apartment type	P 20/per unit
b. Cemeteries	P 20/tomb
c. Columbarium	P 50/vault
• Inspection Fee *	
a. Memorial Projects	P 1,000/ha
b. Cemeteries	P 500/ha
c. Columbarium	—
6. Extension of Time to Develop	P 350
• Inspection Fee (affected/unfinished areas only)	
a. Memorial Projects	P 1,000/ha.
b. Cemeteries	P 500ha.
c. Columbariun	P 12/sq.m. of the remaining GFA
7. Certificate of Completion	
• Certificate Fee	P 150
• Processing Fee	
a. Memorial Projects	P 1,000/ha
b. Cemeteries	P 500/ha
c. Columbarium	P 4 /s.m. of GFA
G. Other Transactions/Certifications	
A. Application/Request for:	
1. Advertisement Approval	P 500.
2. Cancellation/Reduction of Performance Bond	P 2,000.
3. Lifting of Suspended Licenses to Sell	P 2,000.
4. Exemption from Cease and Desist Order	P 150.
5. Clearance to Mortgage	P 1,000.
6. Lifting of Cease and Desist Order	P 2,000.
7. Change of Name/Ownership	P 1,000.
8. Voluntary cancellation of CR/LS	P 1,000.
9. Revalidation/Renewal of Permit (Condominium)	50% of assessed current processing fees including inspection fee
B. Other Certifications	
1. Zoning Certifications	P 500/ha.
2. Certification of Town Plan/Zoning OrdinanceApproval	P 150.
3. Certification of New Rights/Sales	P 150
4. Certificate of Registration (form)	P 150
5. License to Sell (form)	P 150
6. Certificate of Creditable Witholding Tax (maximum of 5 lots per certificate)	P 150
7. Others, to include:	
a. Availability to records/public request	P 200
b. Certificate of no records on file	P 200
c. Certification of with or without CR/LS	P 200
d. Certified xerox copy of documents (report size)	
• Document of five (5) pages or less	P 30
• Every additional page	P 3
e. Photo copy of documents	P 2
H. Registration of Dealers/Brokers/Salesmen	
A. Dealers/Brokers	P 500
B. Salesmen/Agent	P 200
I. Homeowner Associations	
1. Registration of HOA Examination/Registration	
• Articles of Incorporation	P 650
• By-laws	P 650
• Books	P 200
2. Amendments	
• Articles of Incorporation	P 500
• By-laws	P 500

• Application for CR/LS with DP issued by LGUs shall be charged inspection fee

NAME OF FEE	FEE
3. Dissolution of Homeowners Association	P 500
4. Certification of the new set of officers	P 350
5. Other Certifications	
• Inspection Fee (CMP Projects)	P 500/ha.
J. Legal Fees	
A. Filing Fee	P 1,000.
B. Additional Fee for claims (for refund, damages, attorney's fees, etc.)	
1. Not more than P20,000	P 120
2. More than P20,000 but less than P80,000	P 400
3. P80,000 or more but less than P100,000	P 600
4. P100,000 or more but less than P150,000	P 1,000
5. For each P1,000 in excess of P150,000	P 5
C. Petition for Review	P 2,000

D. Pauper-litigants are exempt from payment of legal fees
  1. Those whose gross income is not more than P 6,000 per month and residing within M.M.
  2. Those whose gross income is not more than P4,000 per month and residing outside M.M.
  3. Those who do not own real property.

E. Government agencies and its instrumentalities are exempted from paying legal fees

F. Local government & government owned or controlled corporations with or without independent charters are not exempted paying legal fees.

K. UPLC Legal Research Fee
Computation of Legal Research Fee for the University of the Philippines Law Center (UPLR) remains at One Percent (1%) of every fee charged but shall in No Case Be Lower than P 10.00

NAME OF FEE	FEE
L. Research/Service Fee (50% discount for students)	
A. 1. Photcopy (Maps:Subd./ Condo.Plans; presentation size)	P 100
2. Hard Copy from Diskettes (License to Sell data)	P 30 1st 5 pages;P5/page in excess of 5
3. Electronic File (License to Sell available data	P 500/diskette;additional P50 for rush job
4. Electronic File (Land Use Maps available)	P 10,000.
5. Certified True Copy - Map (Land Use Plan)	P 100.
B. Sale of Forms, Publications, etc.	
1. Proforma- Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws	P 150
2. Books and other HLURB publications *	
a. CLUP Guidelines :	
Volume I Demography	P 120
Volume II Social Sector	P 380
Volume III Economic Sector	P 380
Volume IV Infrastructure & Utilities Sector	P 250
Volume V Land Use	P 300
Volume VI Local & Utilities Sector	P 100
Volume VII Mapping	P 250
Volume VIII Report Writing	P 50
Volume IX Plan Review, Adoption and Approval Process	P 230
Volume X Model Zoning Ordinance	P 150
b. PD 957	P 200
c. BP 220	P 200
d. Planning Strategically Guidelines	P 200

* Subject to change depending on printing cost

(Continued on next page)

2004 SCHEDULE OF FINES AND GUIDELINES IN ITS IMPOSITION

I. SCHEDULE OF FINE

A. For violation of TPZ and ULRZ/APD laws, rules and regulations.

1. Failure to secure locational clearance prior to the start of the project.

CONFORMITY WITH LAND USE 1/

	CONFORMING			NON-CONFORMING		
Project Type	Minimum	Medium	Maximum	Minimum	Medium	Maximum
Industrial	P1000-2500	2501-4000	4001-5500	2501-4000	4001-7000	7001-10000
Agro-Industrial	750-2000	2001-3500	3501-5000	2001-4000	4001-7000	7001-10000
Agricultural	700-1500	1501-3000	3001-4500	1501-3000	3001-6000	6001-9000
Commercial	– do –	– do –	– do –	– do –	– do –	– do –
Institutional	600-1200	1201-2400	2401-3500	1201-2400	2401-5000	5001-7000
Residential 2/	500-1000	1001-1500	1501-2000	1001-7000	2001-3000	3001-4000
Special Project	1000-3500	3501-6500	6501-10000			

	Minimum	Medium	Maximum
2. Violation of the terms and conditions of clearance and all other non-compliance with the requirements for locational clearance	500-2000	2001-3500	3501-5000

1/ As per approved Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) or HLURB Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

2/ Excludes single-detached family dwelling units.

B. For violation of ULRZ/APD, laws, rules and conditions

	Minimum	Medium	Maximum
1. Selling without sales clearance	200-500	501-700	701-1000
2. Mortgaging without mortgage clearance	100-250	251-350	351-500
3. Failure to register existing rights	– do –	– do –	– do –

C. For violation of real estate laws, rules and regulations

	Minimum	Medium	Maximum
1. Failure to secure development permit	1000-3000	3001-6000	6001-10000
2. Unauthorized alteration of approved development plan	– do –	– do –	– do –
3. Non-compliance with approved development plan	– do –	– do –	– do –
4. Incomplete development	– do –	– do –	– do –
5. Non-development	– do –	– do –	– do –
6. Failure to register project	– do –	– do –	– do –
7. Selling without DP	– do –	– do –	– do –
8. Selling without CR	– do –	– do –	– do –
9. Selling without license (per unit/lot)	– do –	– do –	– do –
10. Violation of terms/conditions of development permit/ license to sell	– do –	– do –	– do –
11. Failure to secure advertisement approval	– do –	– do –	– do –
12. Failure to secure mortgage clearance (per unit/lot)	– do –	– do –	– do –
13. Failure to redeem mortgage (per unit/lot)	– do –	– do –	– do –
14. Non-delivery of title	– do –	– do –	– do –
15. Failure by the owner/ developer to annotate mortgage affidavit of undertaking	1000-3000	3001-6000	6001-10000
16. Failure to change/amend name of project	– do –	– do –	– do –
17. Unauthorized change or amendment in the name of the project	– do –	– do –	– do –
18. Failure to annotate contract to sell in the title			
19. Imposition of realty taxes and other charges on vendee contrary to P.D. 957	– do –	– do –	– do –
20. Failure to register or secure title covering open spaces/common areas	– do –	– do –	– do –
21. Failure to submit sales status report	– do –	– do –	– do –
22. Failure of the developer, broker, salesmen to register or renew registration (per year)	200-500	501-700	701-1000
23. Failure of the developer to initiate the organization of HOA	1000-3000	3001-6000	6001-10000
24. Violation of other provisions of P. D. 957 and other related laws, including their implementing rules and guidelines	– do –	– do –	– do –

D. For violation of homeowner association (HOA) laws, rules and regulations

	REGULAR/ CMP		
	Minimum	Medium	Maximum
1. Non-registration (Sec. 30, P.D. 957)	500-1000	001-3000	001-500
2. Failure to register amendment(s) articles of incorporation and by-laws	– do –	– do –	– do –
3. Non submission of annual reportonal requirements:			
a. corporate financial records	– do –	– do –	– do –
b. updated list of members/ information sheet	– do –	– do –	– do –
c. set of officers	– do –	– do –	– do –
d. board resolution/minutes of the meeting	– do –	– do –	– do –
4. Failure to hold regular election in accordance with by-laws	500-1000	1001-3000	3001-5000
5. Commission or omission of an act amounting to surrender of corporate rights, privileges or franchise	– do –	– do –	– do –
6. Fraud or misrepresentation in procurement of registration	1000-3000	3001-6000	6001-10000
7. Continuous inoperation or inactivity for a period of at least 5 years	500-1000	1001-3000	3001-5000
8. Non compliance or defiance of any lawful order of HLURB	– do –	– do –	– do –
9. Misuse of a right, privilege or franchise conferred upon it by law or exercise of a ight privilege or fraud contrary to law	– do –	– do –	– do –
10. Serious misrepresentation of the association's legal capacity	1000-3000	3001-6000	6001-10000

E. Pursuant to Art. IV Sec. 5.0 of EO 648, Series of 1981 the HLURB is empowered to: *"impose administrative fine not exceeding twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) for any violation of its Charter and its rules and regulations."*

F. Pursuant to Art. IV, Sec. 5 [q (1 and 2)]of EO 648, Series of 1981, the HLURB may cite and declare any person entity or enterprise in contempt of the Board in the following case:

1. Whenever any person entity or enterprise commits any disorderly or disrespectful conduct before the board or in the presence of its members or authorized representatives actually engaged in the exercise of their official functions, or during the conduct of any hearing or official inquiry by the said board, at the place or near the premises where such hearing or proceeding is being conducted which obstruct, distract, interfere or in any other way disturb, the performance of such functions or the conduct of such hearing or proceeding;
2. Whenever any person, enterprise or entity fails or refuses to comply with or obey without justifiable reason, any lawful order, decision, writ or process of the board. In connection therewith, it may in cases falling within the first paragraph hereof, summarily impose a fine of an amount not exceeding P2,000.00 and order the confinement of the violator for a period that shall not exceed the duration of the hearing or proceeding or the performance of such functions, and in cases falling within the second paragraph hereof, it may, in addition to the administrative fine abovementioned impose a fine of P500.00 for each day that the violation or failure or refusal to comply continues, and order the confinement of the offender until the order or decision shall have been complied with;

   In case the offender is a partnership, corporation or association or enterprise, the above fine shall be imposed on the assets of such entity and the President, managing partner or chief executive officer shall be ordered confined.

G. Pursuant to Sec. 38 of PD 957, the HLURB may prescribe and impose (administrative) fines not exceeding ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) for violations of the provisions of the decree or of any rule or regulation there under. Fines shall be payable to the board and enforceable through writs of execution in accordance with the provisions of the rules of court.

II. GUIDELINES IN THE IMPOSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE FINES

A. Grounds for Imposition

Where the existence of the following acts and omissions are duly established, the fine fixed on the schedule of administrative fines corresponding to such act or omission shall be imposed:

1. Failure without just cause to secure any of the clearances, permits, licenses or approval that are required by law or regulations to be secured from the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB);
2. Failure to comply with any of the condition/s set forth in the clearances, permits, licenses or approval issued by the Board;
3. Failure to complete development, non-provision of the required facilities, non-compliance with approved development plan or altering without approval in case of subdivisions, condominiums and townhouses;
4. Selling of lots in a subdivision, farm lots and memorial parks, condominium units and townhouses without license to sell or advertising without approval and selling mortgaging, leasing or otherwise encumbering lands/properties within Urban Land Reform Zones or Areas for Priority Development without approval/clearances from the Board;
5. Misrepresentation of facts and circumstances relative to the project at the time of application or monitoring; and
6. Failure to obey or comply with the order issued by the Board after monitoring the existence of any violation;
7. Failure without just cause to register the homeowners association; submit its articles of incorporation, constitution and by-laws, or any amendment/s thereto, annual reportorial requirements, i.e., corporate financial records, updated information sheet, or board resolutions and/or minutes of meetings; and, hold regular election/s as well as special or general assembly meetings that are required under the by-laws of the association, the law, or regulations of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB);
8. Commission or omission of an act or acts amounting to surrender of the association's corporate rights, privileges or franchise; fraud or misrepresentation in the procurement of registration; and, serious misrepresentation of the association's extent of legal capacity;
9. Employment without just cause of such devices or schemes as well as commission by the Board of Directors or officers of the homeowners association of any act or acts amounting to fraud and misrepresentation which may prove detrimental to public interest or that of the members of the association registered with the Board; refusal to comply with or defiance of any lawful order of the HLURB, its Regional Offices, or Arbiters; violation of any provisions of HLURB rules and regulations and those of the Corporation Code whenever applicable;
10. Exercise or misuse of a right, privilege, or franchise conferred upon the association by law, or in contravention of the same; continuous inoperation or inactivity for a period of at least five (5) years; and, failure to file required reports in appropriate forms as determined by the HLURB within the prescribed period.
11. In cases involving of violations of homeowner association laws, rules and regulations, liability for the fines imposed shall attach to the Board of Directors unless by the nature of the violation, liability therefor is imputable to a particular officer of the association.

B. General Circumstances to be Considered

In determining whether a fine/penalty shall be imposed as well as the nature/extent/ amount thereof, the following attending factors/circumstances shall be taken into consideration:

1. The impact, notoriety, or gravity of the violation/s committed;
2. The presence of circumstances indicating good or bad faith on the part of the violator;
3. The presence or possibility of damage, prejudice or inconvenience to the members, neighbors and/or the community in general; or the larger physical, social, or moral impact of the commission or omission to the society.
4. The implication of the continued existence of the violation on the attainment of the objectives/purposes enunciated in the law and regulations;
5. The nature and frequency of violations.

C. General Rules in Imposing Fines/Penalties

In the imposition of fines/penalties, the following rules shall apply:

1. In the absence of any mitigating or aggravating circumstances the "Medium Range" of Penalties shall apply;
2. Each circumstance shall be generally considered as of equal weight, i.e., one mitigating circumstance shall be equivalent to, and shall offset or cancel an aggravating circumstance, except in following cases:
   a. Special Aggravating circumstance of repeated violation shall be offset only by two (2) mitigating circumstances.
   b. Lack of foreknowledge, ignorance of the law, where any one of the circumstances mentioned in II D.6. are absent, which shall be considered as a privileged mitigating circumstance that can be offset only by two (2) aggravating circumstances.
3. Within each range (minimum, medium, maximum) there shall be equal sub-ranges based on project classification by land use intensity (e.g. R1, R2, C1, C2, I1, I2, etc.) with those lowest in intensity being imposed the minimum amount for each range and those highest in intensity, the maximum amount in the range;
4. Within each sub-range shall be "High" and "Low" periods with the applicability of the periods in question being dependent on the presence or absence of rules and regulations at the time the violation is committed;
5. To determine the extent of a period or a sub-range, the sum of the minimum and maximum amounts of each periods or sub-range shall be divided by the number of periods/sub-range to be created and the resulting quotient shall be considered as the extent of such period or sub-range, which shall then be reckoned from the minimum amount of the range or the maximum amount of the preceding sub-range, as the case may be.

D. Circumstances Justifying Exemption From Fine

The following circumstances shall be sufficient to exempt the violator from liability for fines.

1. Where the proponent has secured zoning/locational clearance and/or other permits from a local zoning administrator or building official and/or other local officials with apparent authority to issue the same, provided that:
   a. Said permit is secured prior to establishment of the project;
   b. Proponent subsequently voluntarily applies for proper clearance from the Board;
   c. In case there are existing complaints, proper remedial measures shall be instituted.
2. Where project is undertaken by other government agencies and/or corporations;
3. Where the project is established in municipalities without town plans/zoning ordinances provided other permits justifying its existence have been secured;
4. Where the property is located within an APD/ULRZ but is not occupied by qualified tenants, and is sold/mortgaged or encumbered under any of the following circumstances:
   a. When the sale/mortgage is between members of the same family or relatives (up to third degree);
   b. When the same arose out of partition among co-heirs and co-owners;
   c. When the area of the property is less than one hundred (100) square meters;
   d. When the sale/mortgage or other encumbrance was due to an immediate medical emergency which require medical expenses or to a need to defray funeral expenses of the immediate members of the families and extra-ordinary expenses in case of fire, flood and other natural calamities.
5. Where non-completion of the development of a portion of the subdivision is beyond the control of the developer such as (deterioration of peace and order, occurrence of force majeure, or the area has been established to be illegally occupied; shortage or materials , extraordinary devaluation of the currency;
6. Lack of foreknowledge in the establishment of any land use/development project, and/or ignorance of the laws and regulations on locational clearance/ subdivision regulations provided that both of the following circumstances are also present:
   a. Either project location is in a remote area, or responsible officials failed to disseminate information concerning pertinent requirements; or require the same.
   b. Existence of analogous facts/information that may warrant exemption from fine.
7. Where the association, or its board of directors, or authorized officers, has secured the association's registration certificate; filed its articles of incorporation, constitution and by-laws, or any amendment/s thereto, submitted its annual reportorial requirements, i.e. corporate financial records, updated information sheet, or board resolutions and/or minutes of meetings; and, reported its regular election/s as well as special or general assembly meetings that are required under the by-laws of the association, the law, or regulations of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) to the concerned Regional Office of the HLURB, provided that:
   a. Said registration certificate, articles of incorporation, by-laws, or amendments thereto, etc., was filed prior to the formal operation of the activities/business of the association, or the discovery of its violation by the Regional Office;
   b. The association before being cited for violation, has in fact and in truth previously applied for its registration, submitted its corporate records, etc.;
   c. There is/are pending case/s or action/s before HLURB Arbiters and/or the Board of Commissioners the subject matter of which are identical and directly relevant to those cited in the violations, and proper remedial measures have been established for the protection and preservation of the rights of the members during the pendency of such action;
8. Where the association was previously registered with, or has complied with the rules and regulations of registration of the Home Guarantee Corporation (HGC), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Presidential Commission on Urban Poor (PCUP), the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), or any other analogous government agency directly or indirectly tasked to register homeowners association, provided, their corporate records are subsequently transmitted and duly registered with the HLURB;
9. Where the association has submitted in advance substantial relevant documents for its registration or compliance with its reportorial requirements, etc., but has yet to secure, without bad faith or misrepresentation on its part, other requirements being held or withheld by any judicial, administrative, local, or legislative agencies of the government, any contracting party;
10. Where registration, submission of reportorial requirement, and other compliance with the orders of the HLURB is beyond the control of the association such as when there exist deteriorating peace and order in their locality, occurrence of force majored, or the area has been established to be illegally occupied; shortage of materials, or extraordinary devaluation of the currency;

E. Mitigating Circumstances Justifying the Imposition of Minimum Range of Fines

The following mitigating circumstances shall warrant the Imposition of the Minimum Level of Fine:

1. When the violation has minimal adverse impact on the adjoining areas or projects or on the rights of affected parties, if any;
2. When the failure to do a required act was due to unforeseen or unavoidable circumstances not totally beyond the control of and brought by the violator;
3. When the violation although not conforming does not pose any present danger to public health, safety, convenience and peace and order;
4. When the violation can be easily rectified, i.e. the law/regulation/condition can still be complied with;
5. Where there was negligence on the part of the violator in failing to immediately comply with the requirements of the law but no adverse consequences have been noted;
6. When the violation has minimal adverse impact on the great number of members of the association, the operation and management of the homeowners association as well as facilities of the subdivision, the financing institutions or originators which assists the association in the acquisition and development of the occupied lands of the members, and the whole community where the association is situated;

F. Aggravating Circumstances Warranting Imposition of Maximum Range of Fines

1. Where the status/standing/experience and other qualifications of the violator is such that he may be presumed to be already aware of the pertinent requirements of the law and regulations;
2. When the violator has a history of similar offenses or violation over several occasions;
3. Where no remedial/corrective measures are made despite due notices, or even if measures are undertaken the same are still not adequate;
4. Where owner/developer fails to complete the development of the project without just cause or despite the grant of extension;
5. Where the association, through its directors or officers, fails to comply with the requirements of registration and other acts that it is instructed to observe without just cause or despite the grant of extension to fulfill the order;
6. Where the violation has been established to be deliberately committed or completely without any or reasonable cause;
7. When the project/transaction is subject of actual complaints and found or established to be valid after proper investigation.

G. Grounds for Reconsideration of Penalties/Fines

A motion for reconsideration of an Order Imposing Penalties/Fines may be filed on any of the following grounds:

1. The penalty or fine imposed is not in accordance with nor authorized by law or existing regulations;
2. The fine imposed is excessive, unreasonable, oppressive or arbitrary;
3. The findings of facts do not conform to the truth or do not provide sufficient basis for imposition of fine.

H. Effectivity

These guidelines shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

For your Classified Ads requirements,
call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE : 897-8808 loc. 514, 516
899-4425; 899-4427
897-8425 (Telefax)
CUBAO : 912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)
MAKATI : 892-5578, 811-4361, 811-4370
KALAW : 528-0213, 527-3342
MEGAMALL : 635-0219, 635-0220

COMELEC HOTLINES

525-9345
525-9296
525-9295
525-9294
525-9301
525-9302
525-9334
525-9335

Special Events on Labor Day

THE Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), in collaboration with the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA), the Department of Transportation and Communciation (DOTC), Philippine Retailers Association (PRA), Globe Telecom, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Jollibee and other partners, has prepared special events in celebration of the Labor Day. To make the workers feel specially important and to acknowledge their contribution to the economy, the DOTC will provide free rides today, May 1, 2004 on LRT (7-9 a.m. and 7-9 p.m.) and MRT (7-9 a.m. and 5-7 p.m.). The PBA will offer free entrance to the public on designated sections of Araneta Coliseum on Labor Day for the Purefoods-San Miguel match at 4 p.m. and the Alaska-Shell game at 6:30 in the evening.

The PRA, in support to the DOLE's Labor Day Theme, "Pasasalamat sa Manggagawang Pilipino," will have a Labor Day Sale. For details and inquiries, please call Raymond B. Rosales at 301-0182.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
PORT OF MANILA
Customs District II-A
South Harbor, Manila

NOTICE OF OVERSTAYING SHIPMENTS

29 April 2004

Notice is hereby given that the following articles imported separately on various date at the Port of Manila are considered as overstaying shipments, no entries having been filed thereon within thirty (30) days from the date of discharge of the last package from the carrying vessel, or an entry had been filed, no claim/adjudication was made by their respective consignees/importers or rightful claimants thereof, to wit:

One lot of old overstaying cargoes located at Warehouse No. 1 as follows:
One (1) lot partly rain damage under Container HJCU 7614797 Asstd. Stationary Korean Character, Kids Plastic Bag Stationary, Stuffed Toys with foul smell. 2,000 kgs. more or less
500 units asstd. Sizes old model T.V. set
150 units various old model used ref. Some are damaged, no compressor
6 pallets of 600 ctns. All-purpose sponge big/small approx. 200 kgs.
5 pallets 120 ctns. small Dust Bin approx. 100 kgs.
4 pallets of 40 ctns. Plastic Strainer approx. 60 kgs.
2 pallets small foam 100 ctns. All-purpose sponge approx. 80 kgs. more or less
17 big sack Baby Dress returned shipment under OOLU 3821264 approx. 1,000 kgs. more or less
120 ctns. Can Opener (China) 60 kgs. more or less
One lot old magazine & books approx. 100 kgs.
16 ctns. Joy Stick approx. 30 kgs.
One (1) pallet of Sparindo Mustika Hardened Chem. 22 small drum approx. 100 kgs.
11 ctns. griving duck 30 kgs. approx.
100 ctns. obsolete Head Cleaner 500 kgs. more or less
One (1) lot of Spring Differential, Shock Absorber used replacement parts for truck, cars and motorcycles approx. 10,000 kgs. more or less in scrap condition.
150 pcs. Old Dirty Bucket Seat various model
15 pallet of 45 drum unknown chemicals in Plastic Drum/Can transferred from old 159,200 kgs./drum/can
70 ctns. Maxam brand soap, toothpaste 200 kgs.
One (1) lot of various sofa, mattresses, chair, sofa bed, cabinets, magazines, stainless chillers, plastic glass containers (empty) approx. 4,000 kgs.
60 pcs. asstd. Hospital Beds, examining table crutches, portable toilet bowl approx. 600 kgs. more or less.
One (1) lot of damaged various items 50,000 kgs. more or less, (Scrap materials)
One (1) lot of damage textile 20,000 kgs. more or less
One (1) unit CEFIRO, color: Black (Whse. No. 1)

Failure of the consignee/importer or such rightful claimant to claim/adjudicate his/her importation within fifteen (15) days from the date of this notification shall be deemed to be a renunciation of all his/her interest and property rights in favor of the government pursuant to Section 1801 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines (TCCP), as amended by RA 7651, and the same shall be sold through public auction pursuant to the provision of the TCCP and the other pertinent rules and regulation.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RONNIE C. SILVESTRE**
District Collector
Port of Manila

(PDI - May 1, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE EMPLOYMENT OF **RICHARD P. DUMADAOG**, WHOSE PICTURE APPEARS ABOVE AND WHOSE LAST KNOWN ADDRESS IS **SEVEN SECOND AVENUE, CUBAO, QUEZON CITY**, HAS BEEN TERMINATED FOR CAUSE BY THE **CZARINA ARTS ENTERPRISES, INC.** EFFECTIVE **APRIL 26, 2004.**

ANY TRANSACTION MADE BY **RICHARD P. DUMADAOG** ON BEHALF OF THE COMPANY AFTER THE DATE OF THE TERMINATION OF HIS EMPLOYMENT SHALL NOT BE HONORED BY THE COMPANY.

(PDI–May 1, 2004)

JOBZ EMPLOYMENT EXPO 2004

John Clements
Consultants, inc.

JOB Market

John Clements
CAREER MANAGEMENT SEMINAR SERIES

The company that pioneered the search industry in the Philippines – **John Clements Consultants, Inc.** - brings forth **John Clements Management Seminar Series**. Your **FREE** comprehensive guide on how to land your dream job and attain corporate success.

[illegible]

10 AM "1001 Jobs That You Can Get Into"
Speaker: Maris Aguila, Group Managing Consultant
11 AM "Sure Fire to Land a Job through Your Winning Resume"
Speaker: Reggie Gines, Managing Consultant

[illegible]

10 AM "Closing the Deal through Your Job Interview"
Speaker: Alina Manaig, Managing Consultant
11 AM "Discover Yourself through GENesys"
Speaker: Mawi Acosta, Supervising Consultant

[illegible]

10 AM "Reaching the Top in a Jiffy"
Speaker: Grace Sorongon, VP/Consumer & Technology Services
11 AM "Speak English Well and Get Hired"
Speaker: Rocky Peltzman, Certified English As a Second Language

Venue: Glorietta 4, Cinema 4
Time: 10 AM to 12 NN

Attend this FREE three-day seminar series and be on your way to a successful career. Plus, certified John Clements Consultants will be available for FREE resumé review/analysis, interview tips and counseling.

This event will be simultaneously held with Job Market's JOBZ: Employment Expo 2004 at the Glorietta Activity Center on May 4 to 6,2004.

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

DepED

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax: 631-96-40
Direct Line: 633-93-42
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 local 2221/2007
E-Mail Address: jmluz@deped.gov.ph
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph

INVITATION TO REBID

ADM 04-04-23

The Department of Education is inviting all security agencies to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Security Services of DepEd for 2004. The approved budget for the security services shall be P11,614,860.00.

All interested security agencies may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) starting **April 26 – May 14, 2004** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at http://www.deped.gov.ph.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **May 6, 2004**, 10:00 a.m. at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on **May 20, 2004** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI–April 24 & May 1, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES DILIMAN
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Interested parties are invited to submit proposals for the rehabilitation, management and operation of the:

UP DILIMAN ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TOURISM (AIT) HOUSE

Properties and existing facilities (for inspection and evaluation) located in a 17,000-sq.m. area within the UP North S&T Park Zone, Commonwealth Avenue.

Prequalification forms and Terms of Reference may be obtained form the AIT House Rehabilitation Project Secretariat, Director's Office, Institute for Small-Scale Industries (4/F Virata Hall/ ISSI Bldg.) University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P300.00 from May 3 to 7, 2004. Deadline of submission of duly accomplished prequalification documents will be on May 14, 2004. After the evaluation of the documents submitted, the prequalified proponents shall be duly notified of the schedule of subsequent activities. For inquiries, please contact Tel. No. 920-5301 to -99 loc. 4717; Tel/Fax 920-6923 (c/o Ms. Ludy Cubillas), e-mail: lourdes.cubillas@up.edu.ph.

(Sgd.) **EMERLINDA R. ROMAN**
Chancellor

(PDI–April 24 & May 1, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING
AND REGULATORY BOARD
Region VI, Iloilo City

FAST CARGO LOGISTIC, CORP. CASE NO. 01 VI-1112 ILO
Applicant/Petitioner/s

NOTICE

Petitioner request authority for the Amendment of line in a CPC to operate a TH Truck on the line: from ILOILO CITY to any point of Panay, to the line Iloilo City to any point in the Phiippines, with the use of three (3) units.

This application/petition shall be considered by the Board on May 06, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at its office at LTFRB Building, Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City, on which date applicant/petitioner shall formally submit all its/her/her evidences.

At least five (5) days prior to the date of hearing, applicant/petitioner shall publish this NOTICE once in any newspaper of general circulationn in the whole Philippines and to send by REGISTERED MAIL with RETURN CARD, a copy of the application/petition and notice of hearing to the affected operators listed per Annex "A" hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of this application/petition must file their written opposition supported by the documentary evidence submitted by the parties unless the Board deems it necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence

WITNESS, THE HONORABLE, PORFIRIO L. CLAVEL, JR Regional Director this 21st day of April 2004.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ROMEL D. DURON**
Hearing Officer

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING
AND REGULATORY BOARD
Region VI, Iloilo City

FAST CARGO LOGISTIC, CORP. CASE NO. 99-VI-1060 ILO
Applicant/Petitioner/s

NOTICE

Petitioner request authority for the Amendment of line in a CPC to operate a TH Truck service from the line: ILOILO CITY to any point of Panay, to the line: ILOILO CITY to any point in the Philippines, with the use of one (1) unit.

This application/petition shall be considered by the Board on May 6, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at its office at LTFRB Building, Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City, on which date applicant/petitioner shall formally submit all its/her/her evidences.

At least five (5) days prior to the date of hearing, applicant/petitioner shall publish this NOTICE once in any newspaper of general circulationn in the whole Philippines and to send by REGISTERED MAIL with RETURN CARD, a copy of the application/petition and notice of hearing to the affected operators listed per Annex "A" hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of this application/petition must file their written opposition supported by the documentary evidence submitted by the parties unless the Board deems it necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence

WITNESS, THE HONORABLE, PORFIRIO L. CLAVEL, JR. Regional Director this 21st day of April 2004.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ROMEL D. DURON**
Hearing Officer

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING
AND REGULATORY BOARD
Region VI, Iloilo City

FAST CARGO LOGISTIC, CORP. CASE NO. 99-VI-1335 ILO
Applicant/Petitioner/s

NOTICE

Petitioner request authority for the Amendment of line in a CPC to operate a TH Truck service from the line: ILOILO CITY to any point of Panay, to the line: ILOILO CITY to any point in the Philippines, with the use of three (3) unit.

This application/petition shall be considered by the Board on May 3, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at its office at LTFRB Building, Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City, on which date applicant/petitioner shall formally submit all its/her/her evidences.

At least five (5) days prior to the date of hearing, applicant/petitioner shall publish this NOTICE once in any newspaper of general circulationn in the whole Philippines and to send by REGISTERED MAIL with RETURN CARD, a copy of the application/petition and notice of hearing to the affected operators listed per Annex "A" hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of this application/petition must file their written opposition supported by the documentary evidence submitted by the parties unless the Board deems it necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence

WITNESS, THE HONORABLE, PORFIRIO L. CLAVEL, JR Regional Director this 21st day of April 2004.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ROMEL D. DURON**
Hearing Officer

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

DESCRIPTION	Approved Budget	Bidding Fee
A. Dishwashing Machine	P1.5 Million	P3,000.00

Six (6) months contract for the ff:
(July 1 - December 31, 2004)

1.	Medical/Laboratory Supplies	P1,000.00/co.
2.	Pharmaceutical Supplies (medicines)	1,500.00/ principal
3.	Foodstuffs Supplies	500.00/co.

Source of Funding: **PHC FUNDS**

The list of eligibility requirements will be issued at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, Purchasing Division, Basement of MAB, PHC, East Ave., Quezon City. Only eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee. The **deadline for the submission of requirements is on May 14, 2003 not later than 5:00 p.m.** For any inquiry, please call Purchasing Division at tel. No. 922-05-74 ask for Ms. Noemi Nocasa.

The PHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids or declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract, if there is evidence of collusion between relevant public officers or employees of the PHC and any of the bidders, or among the bidders, or between bidders and third parties, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures. The agency also reserves the right to waive any formality on the bids received, provided that such waiver does not refer to a major deviation in a bid or any requirement provided for in the **Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Executive Order No. 40** pertaining to the substance of the bid. Should such review uncover any misrepresentation made in the eligibility statement, or any changes in the situation of the bidder materially downgrade the substance of such statements, the PHC shall disqualify the bidder upon due notice without any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by it in the preparation of its bids.

(Sgd.) **RAUL D. JARA, M.D.**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – April 24, 25, May 1 & 2, 2004)

COMELEC HOTLINES

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Philippine Daily Inquirer
MESSAGEBOARD

Mother's Day Treat

Warm your mom's heart with your deeply felt love note telling her how special she is to you.

On **May 9, Mother's Day,** INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS, the widest reaching classifieds, will highlight a **"Mother's Day special section"** for personal ads dedicated to the first woman in all our lives.

Nanay Maggie,

There's never been a minute I wasn't glad you were my mom.

Lufi Boy

1 col X 5 cm = P 500

Mom Junie,
You're the best!

JM & Hamma

1 col X 2 cm = P 100

Mama Karen,

Thanks for all you do.

Micro, Nicole, Gabby AJ & Christian

1col X 3 cm = P 200

Mommy Tess,

If there was a day for everything you have given me as a mother, it would be Mother's day everyday. I love you very much!

Chris

2 col X 5 cm = P 1,000

Mommy Lita,

Thank you for always helping us to remember what is important in life...
and today it is YOU!

Happy Mother's Day!

Irah, Basti and Pauline

2col X 8 cm = P 1,500

Mommy Rita,

Thank you for always being there. Happy Mother's Day!

Kobo & Niki

2col X 3 cm = P 500

Take advantage of this offer and this will surely be one of the BEST gifts your mom will ever receive and cherish. For more info, you may visit or call any Inquirer branch.

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What's next in Tech? Find out at Nextech 2004!

DISCOVER what's next in technology at the launching of Nextech 2004 Consumer Electronics Show at the SM Megatrade Hall III of the Megamall. Check out the hottest gadgets and get to experience the next wave in tech for laptops and computers, cellular phones, digital cameras, audio and video electronics, home theaters, security devices and more.

Visitors can also enjoy free computer gaming from Red Fox computers, surf the web through wireless broadband internet by Airborne Access, view the robotics on exhibit from De La Salle University students and have the best brews from Seattle's Best Coffee Co.

Nextech is only until May 2, 2004. So hurry, bring your friends and family along and experience the shape of things to come. Diners and Security Bank cardholders can get vry low interest rates when they purchase any of the items showcased during the event. Plus, lucky visitors have the chance to win cool prizes.

The event is being made possible by. The Philippine Star its official broadsheet, Gadgets Magazine its official magazine, Red Fox Computers, Solar Entertainment Corporation, Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, Rhythms 92.3, 96.3 WRock and Crossover 105.1. For Inquiries contact Montage Advertising Corporation at 900 3488.

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Mortuary and Crematory opening soon!

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Tels. 747-8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451, 522-2128, (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City; Tel. 732-0309, 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels. 346-2543, 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City; Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City; Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688;
413-9400, 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086, (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102, 741-5125, 741-5133, Fax No. 711-3064
DYNASTY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
965 Del Monte Ave., Frisco, Quezon City. Tels. 416-3231; 4162373
ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina City; Tels. 942-6044; 475-1177
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila;
Tels. 2812963, 2813034, 2810522
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Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila, Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas; Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City; Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011;
Tels. (044) 764-0281, 678-0266, (0917) 895-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite, Tels. (046) 471-3375, 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila, Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42, (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Unishoppe Complex, Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal;
Tels. 651-1711; 651-0737
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Sucat, Parañaque City;
Tels. 825-1296, 825-1291 Telefax 825-1314
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur;
Tel. 722-2730, Cell (0917) 5680136, (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258
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1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila;
Tels. 711-6931 to 35, 732-4795, 732-2827
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LINCOLN MEMORIAL SERVICES, INC.
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LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City, Tels. 895-1011 to 19
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98, 941-3576; Telefax 941-3577
MALABED FUNERAL SERVICE
3-A Coronado St., Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City, Tel. 890-63-18
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal, Tels. 645-1855
MARCELO FUNERAL HOMES
Tels. 283-1613, 273-6922
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City, Tels. (075) 515-5960, 522-8783; (0917) 520-5001
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0868
OLONGAPO MEMORIAL PARK
Del Rosario St., Tabacuhan, Sta. Rita, Olongapo, Tel. No. (047) 223-1692
OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
No. 8 Cangma St., Antipolo City 1870
Tel. No. 697-0782, 697-0026, 650-7426; Fax: 697-2764
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13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City, Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
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2141 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
PRIME MEMORIAL CHAPELS
200 Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City, Tels. 427-8412; 4278403
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City;
Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Comentina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376, 826-9682, (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City, Tel. Nos. 843-8838-30, Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City, Tels. 852-8228, 852-7284
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16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila, Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
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1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tel. 302-5447
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visitation chapels on May 1, 2004 at 5:00 p.m.
Pasig Boulevard, Caniogan, Pasig City
(across PLDT)

Arlington East, Pasig City Phone Nos. 7478599 / 7478609

Atty. FRANCISCO G. CASAS, TOP

of Meycauayan, Bulacan

Peacefully joined our Lord
on April 29, 2004 at the age of 87.

His bereaved brother **Msgr. Severino G. Casas**; sister-in-law **Gloria T. Casas**; nephews, nieces, grandchildren and other relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Francis Catholic Church Mortuary in Meycauayan, Bulacan.

Interment will follow after the 2:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, May 1, 2004 at the Meycauayan Catholic Cemetery.

Sofia Librea Kalaw

of Lipa City and Singalong Manila

Peacefully joined her Creator on April 29, 2004
at the age of 78.

Her bereaved sisters and brothers **Amado (†)**, **Lourdes**, **Araceli**, **Teresita**, **Gualberto** and **Antonio**, her sisters and brothers in law - **Carmen Mayo**, **Oscar de Leon**, **Paquito de Guzman**, **Rosemary Aguas**, **Corazon Tantamco**, her nephew - **Jay Kalaw** and her loyal care taker **Caring** request the reader to pray for her eternal repose.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz in Manila Memorial Park, Sucat. Cremation will take place on Monday, May 3, 2004.

EUFEMIA M. MAGSINO

Peacefully joined our Creator on
April 29, 2004 at the age of 97.

Her bereaved children, **Pete & Aida**, **Benny & Lita**, **Lilia & Genaro**, **Mamerto Jr.**, **Angeles**, **Billy & Vi**, **Zenaida**, **Roberto & Norma**, **Alice & Lito**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, other relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Family Residence, Buco Talisay, Batangas.

Interment will be announced later.

MARCIAL C. CRUZADO

of Guadalupe, Makati City

Peacefully joined his Creator
on April 21, 2004 at Carson, California.

His loving wife **Vilma**; children **Noel**, **Nate**, **Raquel**, **Hazel**, **Mabel**, **Boyet**, **Raffy** and **Michael**; sons- and daughters-in-law, grandchildren, sisters, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body will be laid to rest on May 1, 2004 at Carson, California.

Our Dearly Beloved

ROSALINA "NENA" B. SAN JUAN, M.D.

Peacefully joined our Creator
on April 29, 2004 at the age of 83.

Her children: **Ricky**, **Sandy**, **Carl**, **Teddy**, **Cynthia** and **Atong**; daughters-in-law **Minnie**, **Pena**, **Evelyn** and **Marivic**; grandchildren **Bob**, **Pay**, **Cookie**, **Chinky**, **Candy**, **Jen Jen**, **Jan**, **Jayjay**, **Je-an**, **Tiffany**, **Carmina**, **Judith**, **Joshua**, **Justin**, **Maxine**; and sisters **Loida** and **Eden** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel B, Christ the King Parish Church, Green Meadows, Pasig City.

Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina on Tuesday, May 4, 2004 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Christ the King Parish Church, Green Meadows, Pasig City.

"There are many ways to measure a father's success;
not the least of which is the way his children
describe him when talking to their
friends and acquaintances."

In Memoriam

LORENZO "Lensing" SIAZON TRINIDAD, SR.

of Alcala, Cagayan
FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
01 May 2004

"... and the glory of children are their fathers." (Prov. 17:6b)

"One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek: to dwell
in the Lord's house all the days of my life..." **Psalm 27:4**

CLASSIFIEDS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND
REGULATORY BOARD
Region VI, Iloilo City

FAST CARGO LOGISTICS, CORP. CASE NO. 2000-VI-366 ILO
Applicant/Petitioner/s

NOTICE

Petitioner request authority for the amendment of line in a CPC to operate a TH TRUCK service on the line from: ILOILO CITY to any point of Panay, to the line: ILOILO CITY to any point in the Philippines, with the use of Ten (10) units.

This application/petition shall be considered by the Board on MAY 6, 2004 at 9.00 a.m., at its office at LTFRB Building, Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City, on which date applicant/petitioner shall formally submit all its/his/her evidences.

At least five (5) days prior to the date of hearing, applicant/petitioner shall publish this **NOTICE** once in any newspaper of general circulation in the whole Philippines, and to send by **REGISTERED MAIL** with **RETURN CARD**, a copy of the application/petition and notice of hearing to the affected operators listed per Annex "A" hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of this application/petition must file their written opposition supported by the documentary evidence submitted by the parties unless the Board deems it necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.

WITNESS, THE HONORABLE, PORFIRIO L. CLAVEL, JR., Regional Director this 21st day of April 2004

(Sgd.) ATTY. ROMEL D. DURON
Hearing Officer

(PDI - May 1, 2004)

Mini Schnauzer Puppies

M/F 12 weeks old
Salt and Pepper w/ papers and shots Champion line

Pls. call cellphone
0917-8164792

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

FOR THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT OF WATER UTILITY SYSTEMS

The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) on behalf of participating Local Government Units (LGUs) and their respective Bid and Awards Committees (BACs) would like to invite interested Local and Foreign Firms to apply for prequalification and eventually if prequalified, to submit a bid for the **Design, Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Management of Water Utility Systems under a Long-Term Design, Build and Lease Contract** in one or more of the following cities and municipalities:

Aurora Province : — Municipality of Maria Aurora;
Cagayan Province: — Municipality of Sto. Nino;
Capiz Province: — Municipalities of Sigma;
Davao del Sur Province: — Municipality of Sta. Cruz;

Prequalification documents may be purchased by interested potential bidders at the offices of the BACs of the participating LGUs, and at the Project Management I Office (PM I), 5th Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City, Tel. No. (632) 840-34-35 or 893-44-44, Fax No. (632) 893-53-80; for a non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500)** for each set. Documents shall be made available to interested potential bidders during office hours between **May 12 and 21, 2004**.

Five (5) copies of the duly accomplished prequalification statement together with all the documents required to support the statement shall be submitted to the PM I, DBP Head Office, Makati City or at the participating LGUs on or before 5:00 p.m. on **June 4, 2004** (the "Submission Deadline").

The BACs of the participating LGUs reserve the right to reject any or all prequalifications, waive minor informalities therein, or to accept such prequalifications as can be demonstrated to be advantageous to the participating LGUs.

(Sgd.) **EUFEMIA C. MENDOZA**
First Vice-President
Development Bank of the Philippines

(PDI–April 30 & May 1, 2004)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

DepED

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax: 631-96-40
Direct Line: 633-93-42
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 local 2221/2007
E-Mail Address: jmluz@deped.gov.ph
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education through the Health and Nutrition Center (HNC) is inviting suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET	DATE OF PRE-BID CONFERENCE	DATE OF SUBMISSION & OPENING OF BID
Supply and Delivery of Powdered Full Cream Milk	P22,824,000.00	May 7, 2004 10:00 AM	May 21, 2004, 10:00 AM
Supply and Delivery of Fortified Instant Noodles	P 6,099,000.00	May 7, 2004 2:00 PM	May 21, 2004 2:00 PM
Supply and Delivery of Fortified Biscuits	P 2,320,271.00		
Supply and Delivery of Albendazole Tablets	P 5,900,000.00		
Printing and Delivery of Growth Tables and Charts	P 1,500,000.00		

All interested suppliers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent specifying the item/s you wish to bid and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) starting **April 26 – May 14, 2004** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at http://www.deped.gov.ph.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI - April 24 & May 1, 2004)

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

K of C undertakes 'Candidates Forum'

THE KNIGHTS of Columbus Council 8256 of Mary Help of Christians Parish, Barangay Don Bosco, Better Living Subdivision, Paranaque City is all set to undertake "Our Candidates Forum" on Friday, April 30. The project is in support of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) upon the initiative of Mary Help of Christian Parish. The venue of the forum will be at the National Shrine of the Mary Help of Christians covered gym from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Candidates for Mayor and Vice Mayor of Paranaque City are expected to come and present their platforms of governance. Mayoralty candidate Jun Bernabe and his Vice Mayor Bong Amurao, Dr. Pablo Olivarez and his running mate Anjo Yllana, Tess de Asis and her Vice bet Jun Lombos, Alma Moreno and her Vice Mayor aspirant Gene Puzon have all confirmed their attendance to this much-awaited forum.

Likewise, Congressional candidates for the second district of Paranaque City Mayor Joey Marquez and former Secretary Roilo Golez are also coming for the occasion. Barangay Don Bosco belongs to District II of Paranaque City.

Knights of Columbus Council 8256 Grand Knight Adorable Sales said the purpose of this undertaking is to provide voters with an opportunity to know the candidates and their program of government so that they would be properly guided to make an intelligent choice of who to vote come election time.

To ensure large attendance and success for the candidates' forum, the K of C network under District II, P-24, have worked hand-in-hand with the various Paranaque-based NGOs as well as the different parish-mandated organizations, the Federation of Homeowners Associations, business establishments organizations and the congregation of numerous religious groups in the area.

The forum, proceedings of which will be covered live by the Paranaque Cable TV, shall consist of four parts wherein all candidates are expected to air their respective programs of government.

For particulars, call K of C Grand Knight Sales at 823-7830, 437-5224 or at 0919-3237811, or SK Freddie Epistola at 823-4936 or 0919-4674680.

ASEAN JC SENATE MEETING IN BANGKOK

The Asean JC Senate officers and directors recently held its quarterly board meeting in Bangkok. The AJS is composed of JC senators from Asean-member countries Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand. Shown (seated from left) are JCI Senators Dominic Chuo Kong, Malaysia, director; Eric San Juan, Philippines, deputy president; Victor Tay of Singapore, president; Fridi Wonglenson, Thailand, immediate past president; and Vic V. Soliven, Philippines, incumbent president, Philippine JC Senate Foundation. (Standing from right) are JCI Senators Taddy Patkul, secretary, and Somsri Eksorakul, treasurer, and the other directors.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY ALBERT IN GENEVA

Foreign Affairs Secretary Delia Domingo Albert (fifth from left) with the lady Foreign Ministers and dignitaries during a meeting on "violence against women" at the 60th session of the Commission of Human Rights held in Geneva on March 15. The group appointed Secretary Albert as the spokesperson for women migrants rights during the press conference that followed the meeting.

New design concepts for urban development

RECENT trends, show an emergence of affordable residential developments that incorporate the luxurious look and feel of upper class domains, creating a new self-contained yet easily accessible communities where innovative urban living can thrive.

Community Innovations Inc. (CII), a subsidiary of Ayala Land, the country's largest property developer, CII was established with the intention of enabling its parent company to venture into the middle-income residential market and cater to start-up families and the young urban achievers.

With its first residential project, Verdana Homes in Bacoor, Cavite, CII was able to successfully address the aspirations of a new class of young urban achievers and introduce to them a level of integrity, vision and quality that are previously found only in most upscale subdivisions. More new design trends and innovations have been further introduced in its sequel, Verdana Homes Mamplasan in Biñan, Laguna, giving credence to how this relatively young real estate company is changing the landscape of urban development.

The entire subdivision has lots ranging from 180 sqm. To 500 sqm. with a modal lot of size of 200 sqm. Divided into two phases, Verdana Homes further promotes individual interaction through the creation of "sub-neighborhoods", wherein residents have their own private looped areas that also increase one's sense of security. In addition, Ayala Property Management Corp., the group that handles the conservation of all Ayala-owned and developed properties, ensures the continuous upkeep of the whole subdivision as part of CII's after-sales service.

Jose of Arlington attends Florida conference

RAFAEL S. Jose of Arlington Memorial Chapels Inc. recently attended the annual conference of the International Order of the Golden Rule (OGR), a professional association of independently owned and operated funeral homes. The 2004 conference, "Making a Difference: Igniting Your Independent Spirit," was held on March 31-April 3, 2004, at the Gaylord Palms Resort in Orlando, Florida.

The three-day educational program, sponsored yearly by OGR, gives members an opportunity to continue their professional education, obtain new and innovative techniques and business applications, as well as maintain relationships with fellow members across the country and across the globe. Attendees at the 2004 meeting were eligible to earn up to 15.0 continuing education units (CEUs) in states where approved.

The 2004 conference featured three general sessions, three tracks of concurrent sessions, plus breakout sessions designed for members only. The conference also held a Supplier Showcase, where attendees met with representatives from companies offering products and services that aid families and the member funeral homes.

Adidas 4v4 Cup elims in Baguio

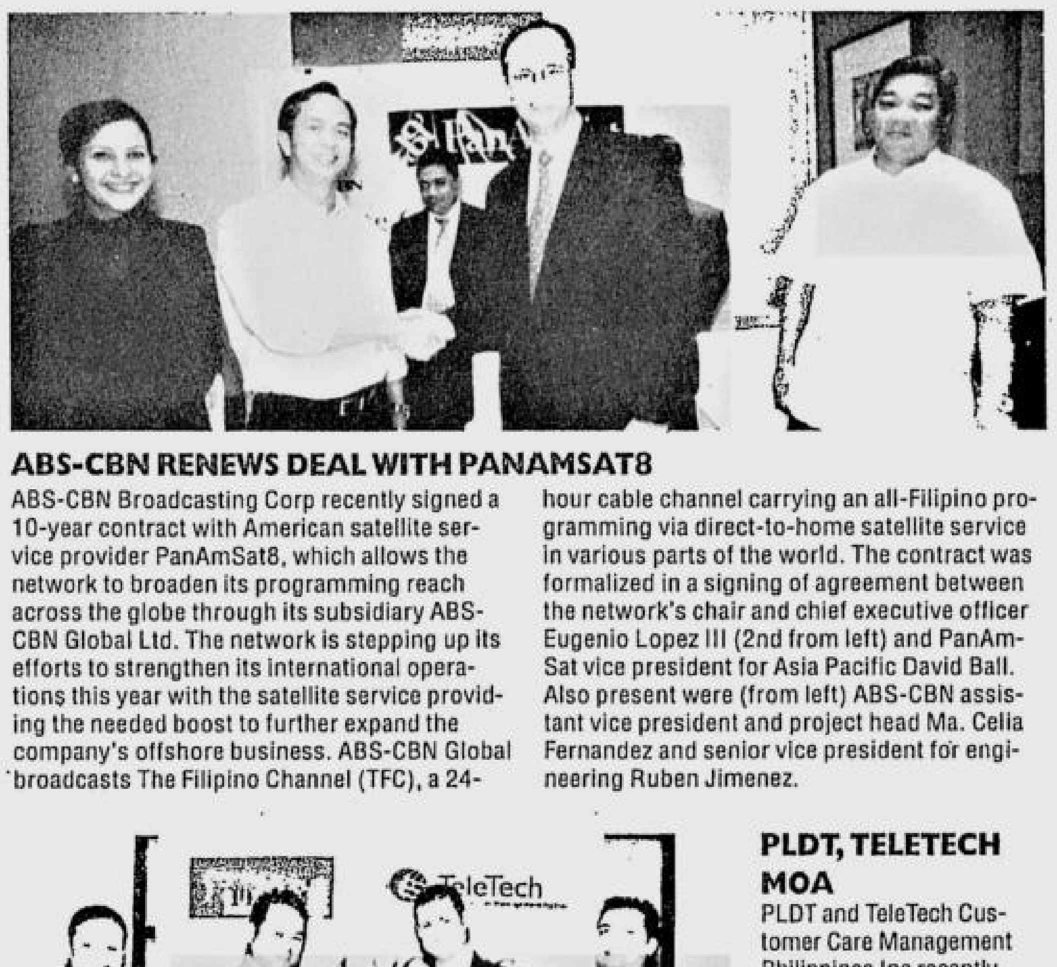
ADIDAS Philippines and Globe gentext in cooperation with Snickers chocolate bar launches summer's hottest tournament for the world's most popular game with the first ever nationwide adidas 4v4 Cup at Brent School, Baguio City today with three divisions, under-12, under-14, and under-16.

The adidas 4v4 Cup is a football tournament designed to develop the offensive skills of young players. The first leg begins in Baguio City for the Northern Luzon leg, and then makes its way to the Ateneo de Manila Football field I for the Southern Luzon leg on May 7, which will include a special division for girls. At the Pelaez Sports Complex in Cagayn de Oro for the Mindanao leg on May 15, Central Philippine University at Iloilo for the Western Visayas leg on May 20, and at the Sacred Heart Ayala in Cebu on May 25 for the Eastern Visayas games. The top teams of each age level will qualify to the National Finals which will be held in Cagayan de Oro on May 30.

Interested parties may call Jojo Rodriguez at 0918-9212406 or the Philippine Football Recreationat 687-1594 or 687-1598.

ORIENTEXEC TEAMS UP WITH IREMIT

OrientExec Corp, an Ortigas-based executive management consultancy firm, has tapped the services of IRemit Inc for its money remittance service to the company's customers in one of the countries in the Pacific Islands to the Philippines. Under the deal, IRemit will be offering its distribution fulfillment services to OrientExec for its clients, which include Filipino immigrants, workers and other clients from the country to parties here. The partnership was sealed in a signing of a memorandum of agreement recently between OrientExec Corp president Marites CB Allen (seated right) and IRemit president and COO Harris ED Jacilo. Also shown are (from left) Ismael Reyes, IRemit VP, Arlene Chua, VP-finance, Nicholas Allen of Globalworks (USA) Corp, and lawyer Elpedio Jamora Jr, CCJS Law Firm managing partner.



ABS-CBN RENEWS DEAL WITH PANAMSAT8

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp recently signed a 10-year contract with American satellite service provider PanAmSat8, which allows the network to broaden its programming reach across the globe through its subsidiary ABS-CBN Global Ltd. The network is stepping up its efforts to strengthen its international operations this year with the satellite service providing the needed boost to further expand the company's offshore business. ABS-CBN Global broadcasts The Filipino Channel (TFC), a 24-hour cable channel carrying an all-Filipino programming via direct-to-home satellite service in various parts of the world. The contract was formalized in a signing of agreement between the network's chair and chief executive officer Eugenio Lopez III (2nd from left) and PanAmSat vice president for Asia Pacific David Ball. Also present were (from left) ABS-CBN assistant vice president and project head Ma. Celia Fernandez and senior vice president for engineering Ruben Jimenez.

PLDT, TELETECH MOA

PLDT and TeleTech Customer Care Management Philippines Inc recently signed a memorandum of agreement on the provisioning of Teletech's data and voice network requirements. Shown are, from left, Katrina Luna, PLDT Convergence 1 business head Eric R. Alberto, PLDT SVP and corporate business head Charles Widdis, TeleTech's IT director, and Dennis Magbatoc, PLDT relationship manager.

New basic education system luring prep, grade schoolers

A NEW system in basic education is attracting preparatory and grade schoolers as it churns out graduates at surprisingly very young age.

This innovative system, being implemented by Harvent School in Pangasinan over the past 25 years, has also produced many graduates who are now successful young professionals in the Philippines and abroad.

"While all other grade schools produce graduates in 6 to 7 years, Harvent School does it in just 3 to 4 years. No wonder many of our graduates are only 9 to 10 years old, and they go on to finish their secondary and college courses with distinction and at a very young age," said founder and directress Margarita V. Hamada.

"Completely deviating from the traditional system, Harvent administers basic education that is pressure-free, and without homeworks, ratings and other standardized tyranny of grades that breeds fear of failure," explained Hamada, an alumna of Maryknoll College and author of several children's workbooks, among others.

"Thus, our pupils are not pressured to walk the tight rope, or conform to education standards set by tradition and all its mistakes. We at Harvent believe that it is not the child who should adapt to a school's education standard. Instead, it is the school that should adapt to the child who, in all his uniqueness, is rightfully the standard," Hamada added.

This one-on-one teaching technology enables Harvent School to assess and determine the best approach and methodology for every child as he is guided to become independent and find joy and sense of achievement in everything he learns.

After 25 years, there are now two Harvent schools, one in 20 Bengzon Street, Lingayen (542-6297) and another in Don Jose Calimlim corner Zamora Streets, Dagupan City (522-2923, 515-2973).

Both schools are now accepting enrollees up to June for this school year.

Choleste-Redux for healthy blood pressure

CHOLESTE-Redux, another herbal food supplement from Better Herbs Inc, is now out in the market. Formulated specifically to promote fluidity of the blood for proper blood circulation, Choleste-Redux utilizes the health-giving benefits of garlic.

Garlic has had a long history of medical use. In 1722, when Europe was plagued, a legendary story tells of group of four thieves victimized dead bodies without fear of acquiring the infection that caused the plague. When the group was caught, they confessed to the authorities their protection--crushed garlic mixed with vinegar. In the Second World War, thousands of lives were saved when garlic was used as an antiseptic, used by soldiers in the control of suppuration of wounds.

More recently, however, garlic has been attributed to lowering the blood pressure and promoting its fluidity for proper blood circulation. Amongst the claimed health-giving benefits of garlic, this subject has accumulated a considerable amount of interest to conduct research on garlic.

There are now 12 well-designed studies published around the world confirming that garlic extracts can reduce the level of bad cholesterol and triglyceride that causes hypertension (which may lead to heart attack and stroke). According to a study in Oxford, a 12-percent reduction in total cholesterol was observed using garlic extract capsules only after four weeks, and that this figure is likely to go higher through the course of the study. Studies in Vienna reported that garlic could dramatically lower blood pressure by neutralizing cholesterol and triglyceride in the intestines or by acting as a vasodilator. These tests indicate that 40-percent of its hypertensive cases had substantially lower blood pressure after they were given garlic extract capsules.

Choleste-Redux by Better Herbs, which contains 100-percent all-natural garlic extract, is now available in Mercury Drug. Choleste-Redux is an herbal food supplement that promotes proper blood circulation and lowers cholesterol and triglyceride levels to prevent hypertension, stroke and heart attack. For more information, call hotline 723-4376, 721-4376 or text 0918-9349347.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

Ali 3	HELLBOY
Ali 4	STARSKY & HUTCH
Ali 5	THE WHOLE TEN YARDS
Ali 6	SCHOOL OF ROCK
Ali 7	MAN ON FIRE

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MAY 2	PBA : RED BULL VS. FEDEX
MAY 3	AMA GRADUATION
MAY 4	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
MAY 5	PBA : ALASKA VS. STA. LUCIA
MAY 6	NCA7-COCK DERBY
MAY 9	PBA: FEDEX VS. SHELL
MAY 12	PBA : STA. LUCIA VS. GINEBRA
MAY 14	REWIND PLUS DOBLE REVO DOBLE PREMYO

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

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MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	ANIMAL
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	ANIMAL
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
CINEMA-2	ANIMAL
CINEMA-3	SPARTAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DEATH CURSE
CINEMA-6	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
CINEMA-7	CHECK INN
CINEMA-8	ACACIA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HELLBOY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STARSKY & HUTCH
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SCHOOL OF ROCK
CINEMA-12	WHOLE 10 YARDS
CINEMA-14	MAN ON FIRE
CINEMA-15	TAKING LIVES

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
CINEMA-1	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
CINEMA-2	BUTTERFLY EFFECTS
CINEMA-4	BONE SNATCHER

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

For inquiries, call:
687-6963 • 687-6972

RESERVED SEATING

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	HELLBOY	11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30	PG-13
2	STARSKY & HUTCH	11:40, 1:50, 4:00 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	PG-13
3	MAN ON FIRE	11:00, 1:55, 4:55 7:55, 10:00	R-18
4	SCHOOL OF ROCK	12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40	PG-13

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Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

WHOLE TEN YARDS R13 12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 6:10, 8:10, 10:10	SCHOOL OF ROCK PG13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	STARSKY AND HUTCH PG13 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
MAN OF FIRE R18 12:55, 4:00, 7:05, 10:20	HELLBOY PG13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	STARSKY AND HUTCH PG13 11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

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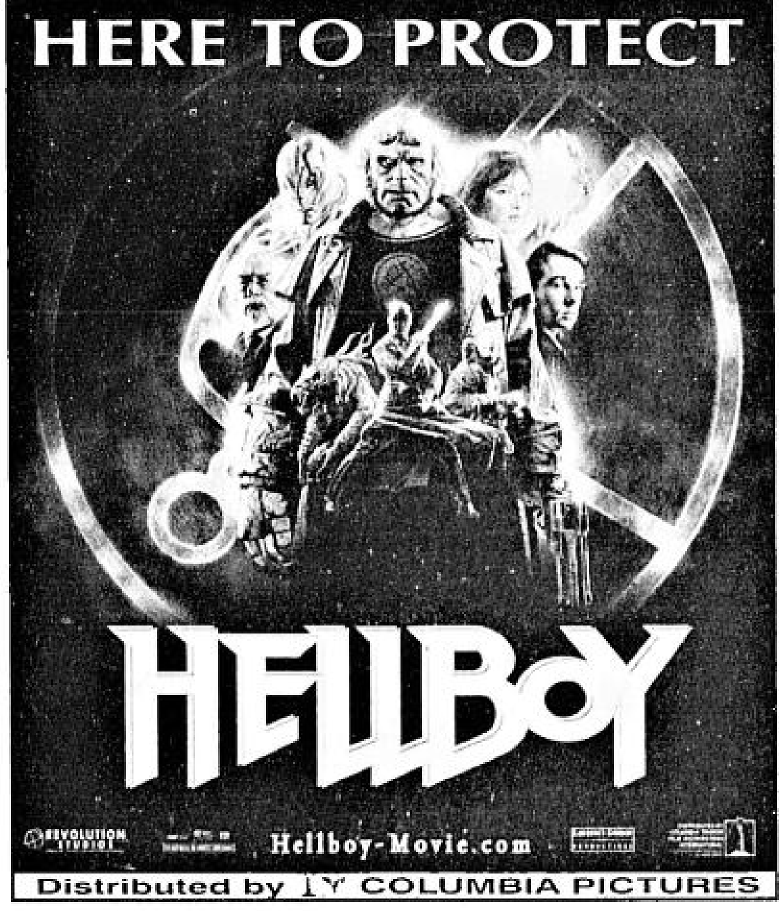

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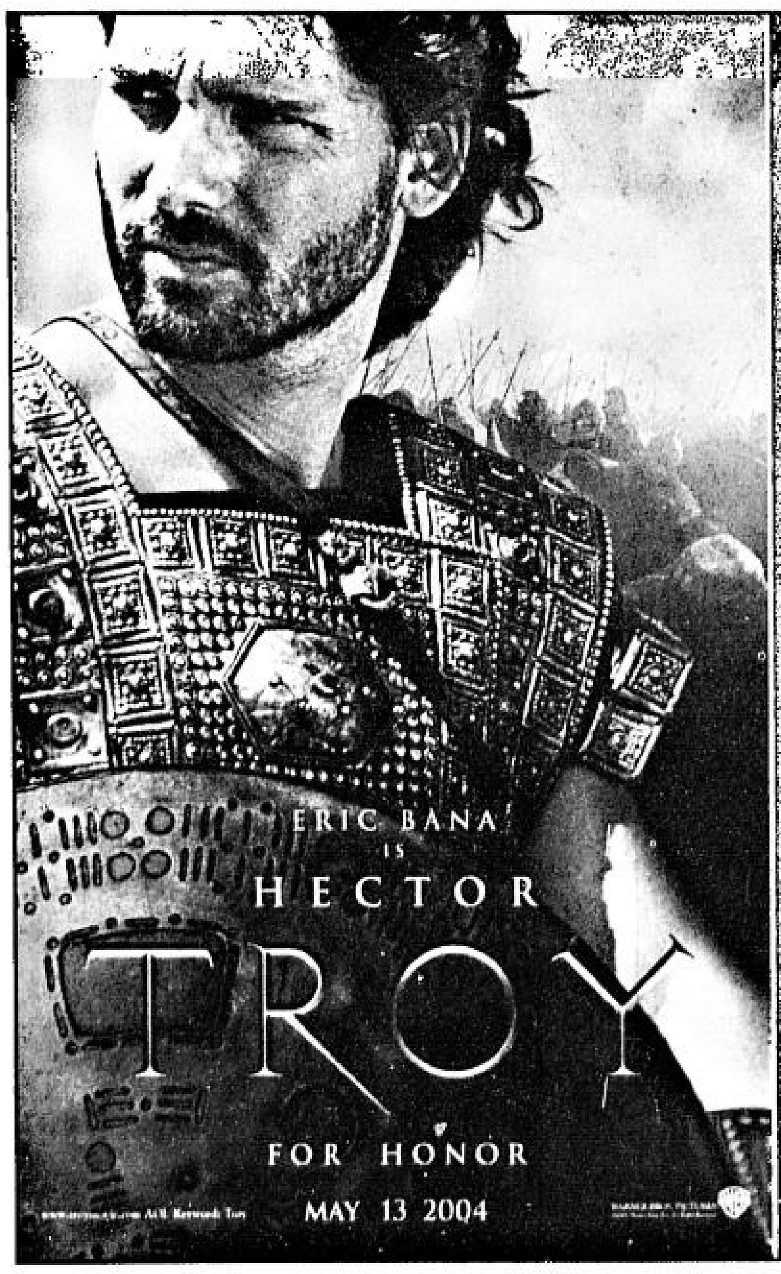

"No son of Troy shall ever submit to a foreign ruler."

THE LONG TIME ENEMY OF KING MENELAUS OF SPARTA WILL WAGE WAR AGAINST THE TROJANS INSTEAD OF FORGING THE AWAITED PEACE ALLIANCE WHEN HECTOR'S BROTHER PARIS, SPIRITS KING MENALEUS' WIFE, HELEN. AS THE DEFENDER OF TROY AND DEVOTION TO BROTHER PRINCE PARIS, WAR IS THE ONLY WAY FOR HECTOR.

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2	THE WHOLE TEN YARDS	10 35 12 50 3 05 5 20, 7 35 9 50
3	MAN OF FIRE	10.15, 1.10, 4.05, 7.00 9.55
4	PAYCHECK	11:35, 1.50 4.05, 6.20, 8.35 10:30
5	STARSKY AND HUTCH	10 35, 12 50, 3 05, 5 20, 7 35 9 50
6	SCHOOL OF ROCK	10 35, 12 50 3 05 5 20, 7.35, 9.50
7	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	11 55, 2 05 4 15, 6 25, 8 35 10 30
8	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST	12 40 3 20, 6 10, 9 00
9	HAUNTED SPIRIT	12 20, 2.25 4 30 6 35, 8 40, 10 30
10	SPARTAN	12:40, 3 00 5.20, 7.40, 10:00

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Regular Price: P130 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

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1	HELLBOY	11:00, 1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 9:40
2	HAUNTED SPIRIT	11.15, 1 05, 2 55 4 45 6 35, 8 25, 10 00
3	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	10 50, 1 00 3 10 5 20, 7 30 9 40
4	MAN ON FIRE	10.10, 1 00 3 50 6 40 9 50
5	SCHOOL OF ROCK	10 50, 1 00 3 10 5 20, 7 30 9 40
6	STARSKY AND HUTCH	10 10, 12 25, 2 40 4 55 7 10, 9 40
7	THE WHOLE TEN YARDS	10 30, 12 25, 2 20, 4 15 6 10 8 05, 10 00

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1	THE WHOLE TEN YARDS	11 50, 2 10, 4 30, 6 50, 9 10
2	MAN ON FIRE	12 00, 3 00, 6 00, 9 00
3	TAKING LIVES	10:40, 12 50, 3 00, 5 10, 7 20, 9 30
4	STARSKY AND HUTCH	12 30, 3 00, 5 30, 8 00, 10 30
5	HELLBOY	10.05, 12.05, 2.15, 4:25, 6:40, 9:00
6	SCHOOL OF ROCK	10:05, 12.05, 2 15, 4 25, 6 40, 9 00
7	PAYCHECK	10:10, 12.20, 2 30, 4 40, 6.50, 9.10
8	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	11.00, 1 00 3 00, 5 00 7 00, 9 00

Big R Supercenter NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW
935-3229 / 31

1	SCHOOL OF ROCK	11.35, 1.40, 3.45, 5.50, 8.10
2	HELLBOY	1.35, 3 50, 6 05, 8.30
3	STARSKY AND HUTCH	11 20, 1 35, 3 50 6 05 8 30
4	MAN ON FIRE	11 45, 2 35 5 25, 8 30
5	THE WHOLE TEN YARDS	12 00, 2 00, 4 00, 6 00 8 10
6	HAUNTED SPIRIT	12.00, 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.10
7	PAYCHECK	10:20 12.45, 3 10, 5 35, 8 10
8	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	11 35 1 40, 3 45, 5 50, 8 10

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1 MAN OF FIRE
2 STARSKY AND HUTCH
3 SCHOOL OF ROCK
4 ANIMAL

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1 MAN OF FIRE
2 SCHOOL OF ROCK
3 ANIMAL
4 STARSKY AND HUTCH

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1 HELLBOY
2 STARSKY AND HUTCH
3 ANIMAL
4 THE UNINVITED
5 MAN ON FIRE

Big R Supercenter LIPA
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1 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 THE UNINVITED
3 TWISTED
4 CHECK-INN
5 HELLBOY

Big R Supercenter DASMARIÑAS
852-2125

1 MAN OF FIRE
2 KARIBAL
3 STARSKY AND HUTCH
4 PETER PAN
5 HELLBOY

Big R Supercenter STARMILLS
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1 PETER PAN
2 CHECK-INN
3 THE MISSING
4 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
5 STARSKY AND HUTCH
6 THX HELLBOY

IMUS
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1 HELLBOY
2 THE WHOLE TEN YARDS
3 STARSKY AND HUTCH
4 MAN ON FIRE
5 SCHOOL OF ROCK
6 ANIMAL

BACOLOD
441-0458/59

1 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 PETER PAN
3 PAYCHECK
4 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
5 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
6 50 FIRST DATES

ILOILO
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1 PAYCHECK
2 PETER PAN
3 THE HIGHWAYMEN
4 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
5 SUROM
6 THE GRUDGE 2

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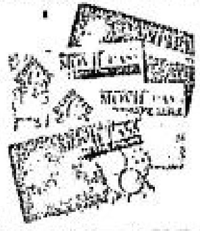

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ICC grants first-pass approval to Ayala's Carmen Water Supply Project

THE CABINET Committee of the Investment Coordinating Council granted first-pass approval to the Carmen Water Supply Project in its meeting on April 29.

The P1.9-billion Carmen Water Supply Project proposes to supply an average of 50,000 cubic meters per day to the Metro Cebu Water District (MCWD) from Luyang River in Carmen, Cebu. A consortium of Ayala and Stateland Inc submitted the unsolicited Build-Own-Operate (BOO) proposal.

The Carmen project is expected to boost Cebu's supply level. Cebu currently receives about 275,000 cubic meters of water per day from MWCD and private deepwells. Metro Cebu is expected to benefit most from the project.

Experts familiar with Metro Cebu's water situation observe that the Carmen project can stem the demand on Cebu's battered aquifer, which provides 90 percent of the total water supply. The aquifer is overmined by an estimated 95,000 cubic meters per day, or more than a third of its current production, resulting in increased water salinity. At this rate, Cebu may experience dry taps in 10 years and irreversible ecological damage by 2025.

Analysts see the project as part of Ayala's expansion in the water business. Ayala is the biggest shareholder of Manila Water Company (MWC) which is the current the concessionaire of the East Zone in Metro Manila.

Ayala managing director Antonino T. Aquino said, "The additional supply addresses a very frequent complaint of Cebu's business sector which is lack of water. It will enhance development of Cebu's economy as the project reduces overmining by 50 percent and buys Metro Cebu time to develop other sources of water. In addition, having connections to MCWD will allow the less fortunate sector to save on water expenditure as they cut off dependence from ambulant vendors."

In March, the Ayala-led consortium signed a memorandum to agreement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the preservation of the Luyang river watershed.

PARANGAL NG BAYAN AWARDS DR. P ADULT DIAPERS

The Parangal ng Bayan Foundation Inc recently awarded DR. P Adult Diapers which is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by East Valley Enterprises Inc. as the Most Outstanding Adult Diaper for the 19th Annual Consumers Excellence Awards 2004. Carol Umali (left), brand assistant of DR. P receives the award at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Yuchengco Tower.

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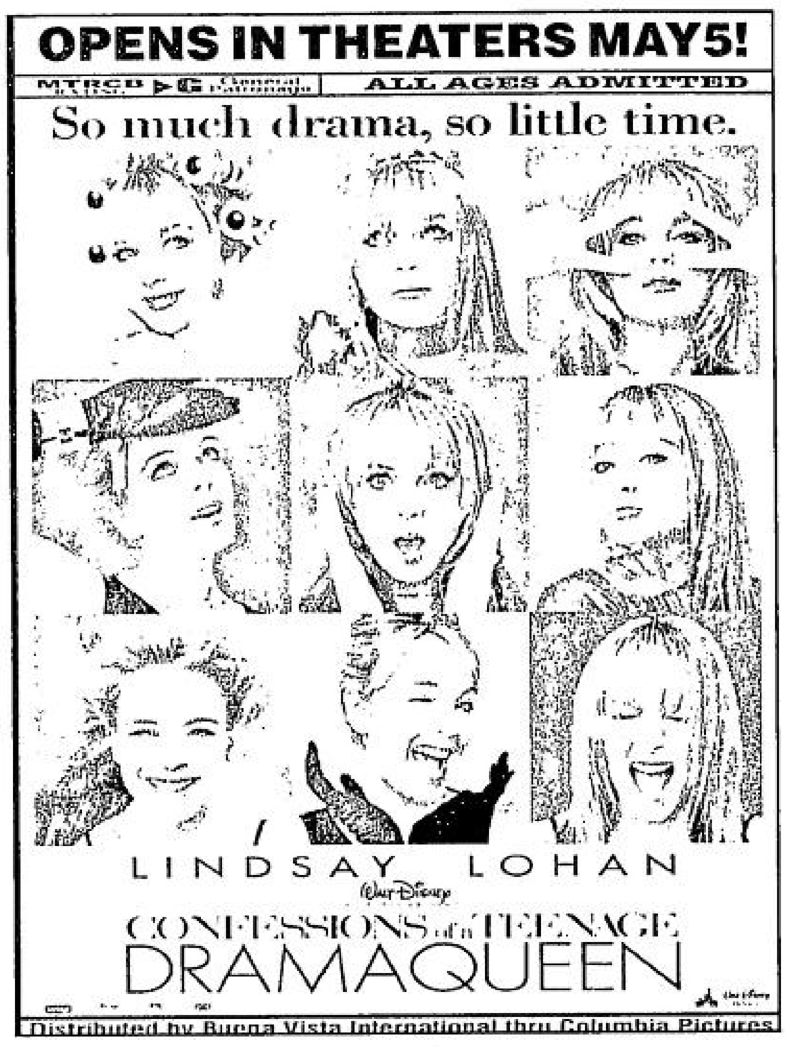
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SOLVE TERMITE PROBLEMS FASTER WITH TIMBERPRO

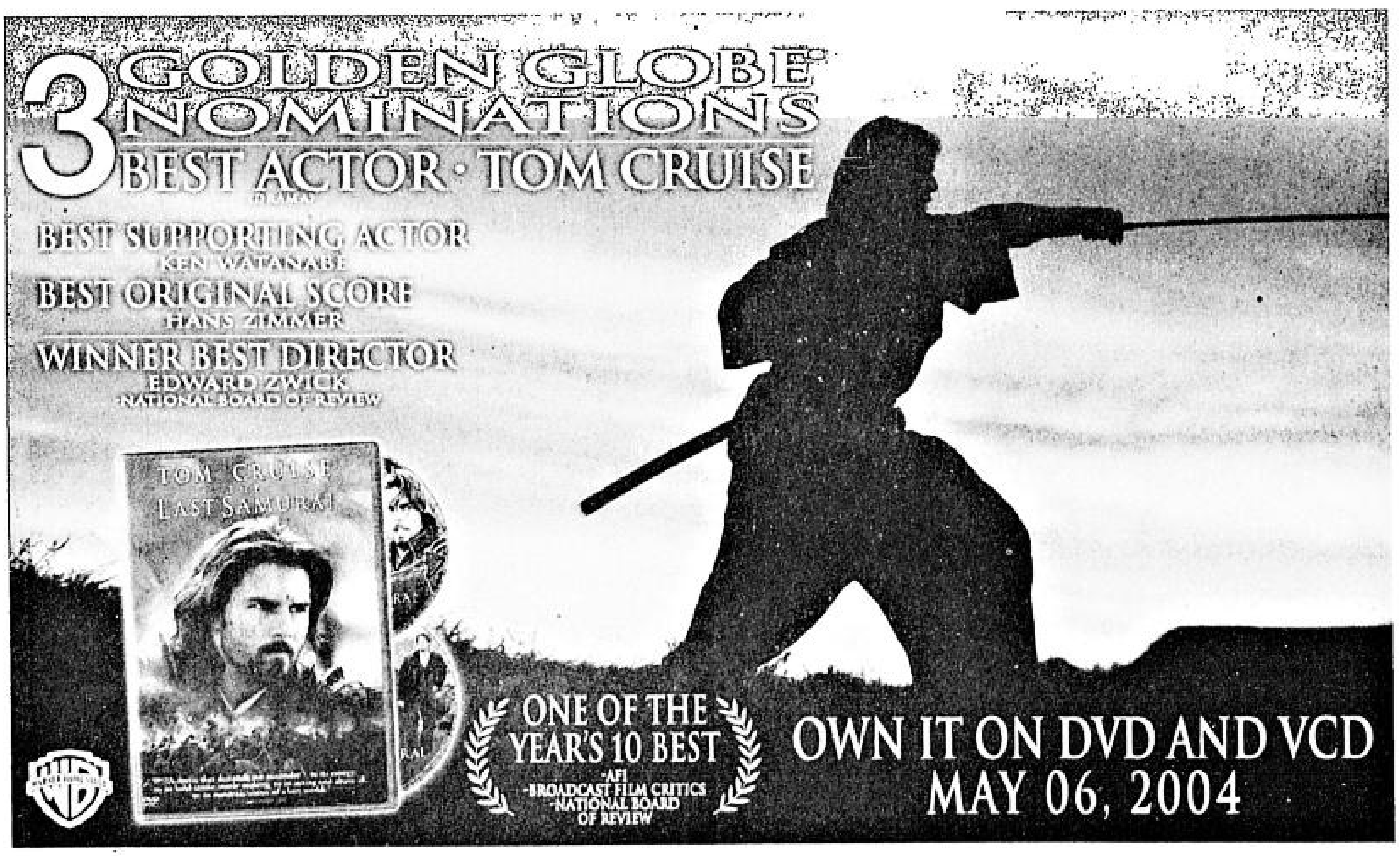
Timmy Facuri (third from left), committee chair of the Timberpro Quality Assurance Division supervises the use of Termatrac (a Microwave Technology in tracking termites without destroying any part of the structure). Timberpro is the first to use this device in this country and has helped detect termite infestations in their clients' properties, thus helping them solve their termite problems faster. For more information contact Timmy Facuri at 820-0783, 826-7201, and 826-7253 or visit their website at www.timberpro.com.ph

SPI Technologies' forum

SPI Technologies, Inc., the first IT firm to be listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange in 1991, has made a name for itself on a global scale, and has garnered several awards for its services. It was born in January 1973, as it was then registered simultaneously as Saztec companies in Singapore and Australia. These were established by two ex-IBM New Zealanders, Jack D' Arcy and Alan Fraser. The concept itself was simple: to be a pioneer in the database conversion business, utilizing competitive and highly skilled employees located in Southeast Asia; and to address a market which, although in its infancy in 1972 when the concept was studied, was seen by both men to be the wave of the future for the data processing industry.

Today, from a modest number of 20 employees, we are now a strong 3,000, and still growing. And to mark another milestone in its history, it celebrated its first ever Leadership Forum last, January 31, 2004, at the Victory Leadership Institute, Fort Bonifacio Global City. 400 SPI leaders headed by SPI's President and CEO, Ernest L. Cu gathered together to attend SPI's Leadership Pipeline 2004: Growing Leaders From Within. The theme was chosen since a pipeline connotes continuity, connectedness and succession. Joe Buot, Vice President for Corporate Human Resources, says, "As SPI ushers into new and more complex growth challenges, the challenge of building our leadership competencies becomes a very critical need." The leadership forum was precisely held for this reason: to improve SPI's agenda on leadership development.

The mood was still festive as the program is put to a close. Elna Ureta, Organizational Development Manager, was tasked to spearhead the team that organized the event. She envisions that the effort to live SPI's vision of leadership will be carried out way beyond this initiative. Efforts for sustainability have also been put in place, including a website exclusively dedicated to leadership. Webinars and CDs shall also be made available for SPI's subsidiaries abroad. She reminds SPI leaders, "The ultimate challenge --- the real leadership journey --- is faced as you go through your day to day routine at work. Through this, you ensure the continuity of SPI's leadership pipeline. Today, now, let us believe, face the challenge and begin."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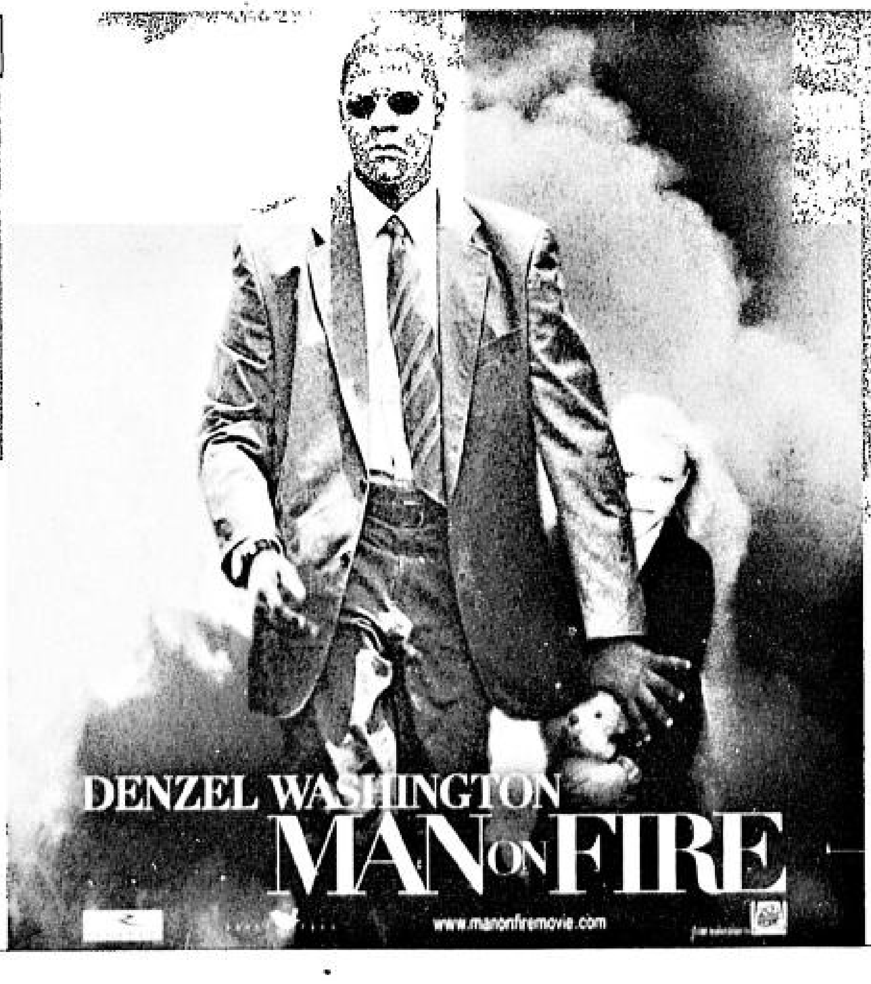
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Oscar winner Denzel Washington stars as Creasy, a government operative / soldier of fortune, who has pretty much given up on life.

In Mexico City, he reluctantly agrees to take a job to protect Pita (Dakota Fanning) whose parents are threatened by a wave of kidnappings. He eventually becomes close to the child and their relationship reawakens and rekindles his spirit. When Pita was kidnapped and presumed dead, his fiery rage is unleashed on those he feels responsible, and he stops at nothing to save her.

DENZEL WASHINGTON
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Kidnapping facts in Mexico City:
- a kidnapping occurs every six hours on average
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- about 80 or 90 percent of the 'kidnappable' people were kidnapped
- TAXI GRAB: As many as 4,000 'express' kidnappings occur in Mexico each year. Passengers in unlicensed taxis are driven to ATMs and forced to withdraw money

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Nextech is only until May 2, 2004. So hurry, bring your friends and family along and experience the shape of things to come. Diners and Security Bank cardholders can get vry low interest rates when they purchase any of the items showcased during the event. Plus, lucky visitors have the chance to win cool prizes.

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Super Dry's Sense-Nation

SENSE-NATION (The Ultimate Party of the Season) was one extraordinary Boracay party that beach-buffs did not miss out. Everyone who was there partied from dark till dawn and experienced the fusion of creativity and being funky that was held at the beachfront of Boracay Terraces Resort last April 10, 2004.

Sense-Nation was powered by six well-known, truly artistic yet deeply funky groups and DJs namely: Mon Maramba, DJ Nole of Rubber Inc., Sand, DJ Pepo, Trip M and Carlota Drummers.

Loads of activities were also conducted during the show such as Block and White's art-ramp, which featured the best and flawless Boracay beach hunks and babes. Kodak Easy Share Digital Cameras also had a photo-op booth wherein "barkadas" can have their picture taken AND printed out immediately for FREE.

Another highlight was the art-rave wherein the crowd participated in diverse creative-beach activities like human graffiti, sand city, canvass painting and installation art.

Sense-Nation was presented by San Miguel Super Dry, a different beer experience; in cooperation with BPI Mini Edge (Have You Got It?); and was brought to you by Addict Mobile, Nestle Lemonade Kodak Easy Share Digital Cameras and Block & White Skin Whitener. Sense-Nation was organized by the BIG Picture Productions.

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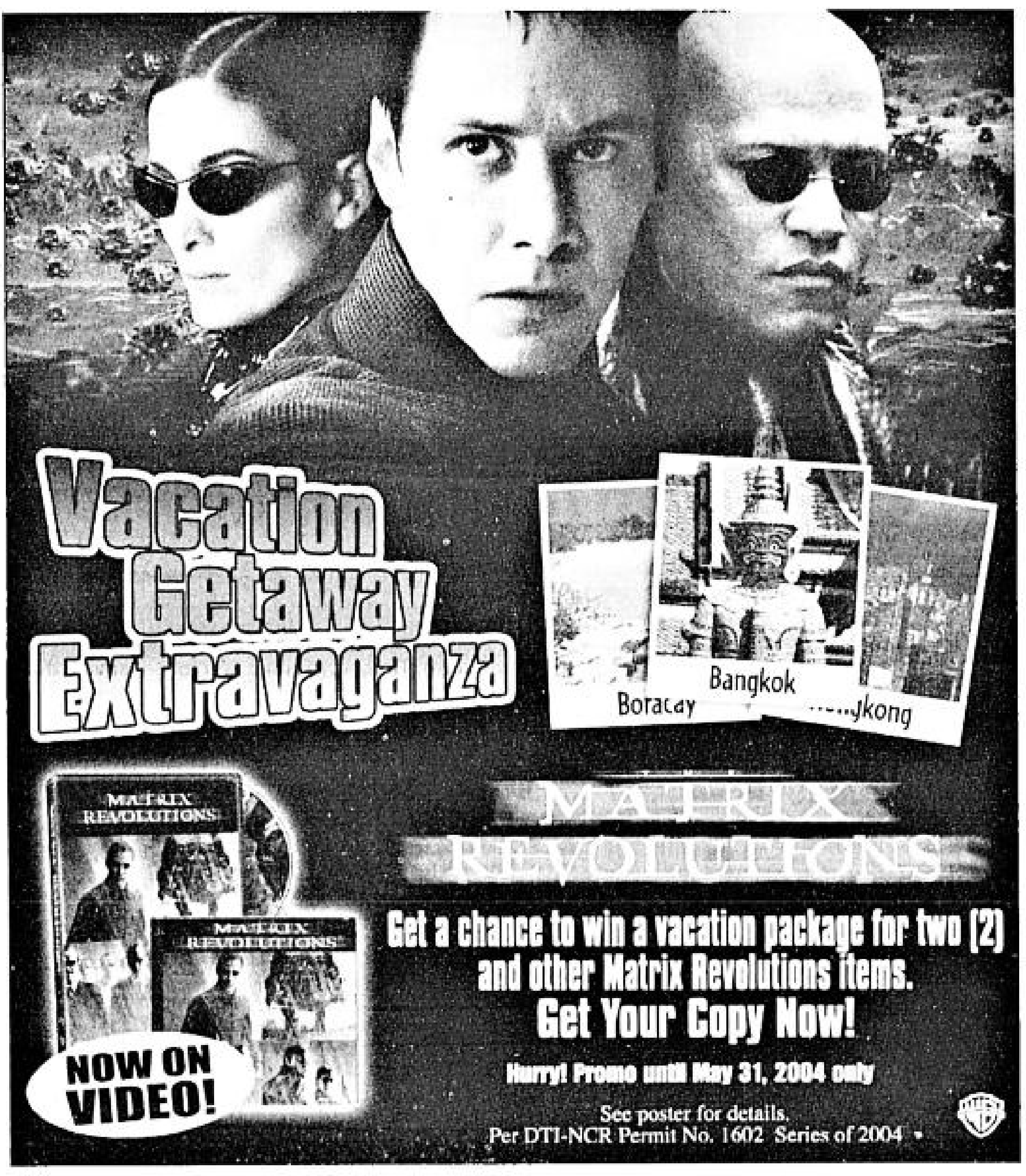
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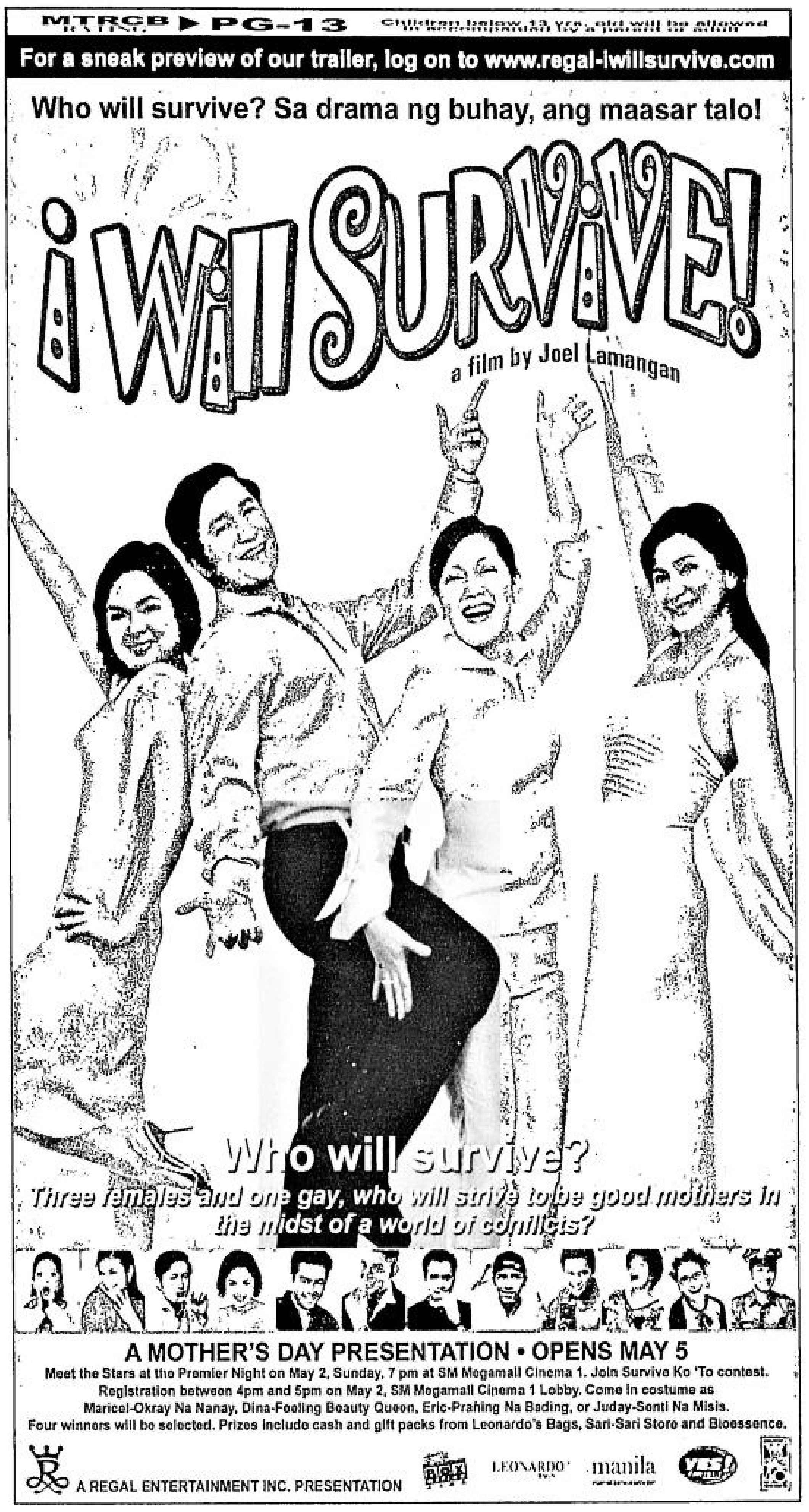
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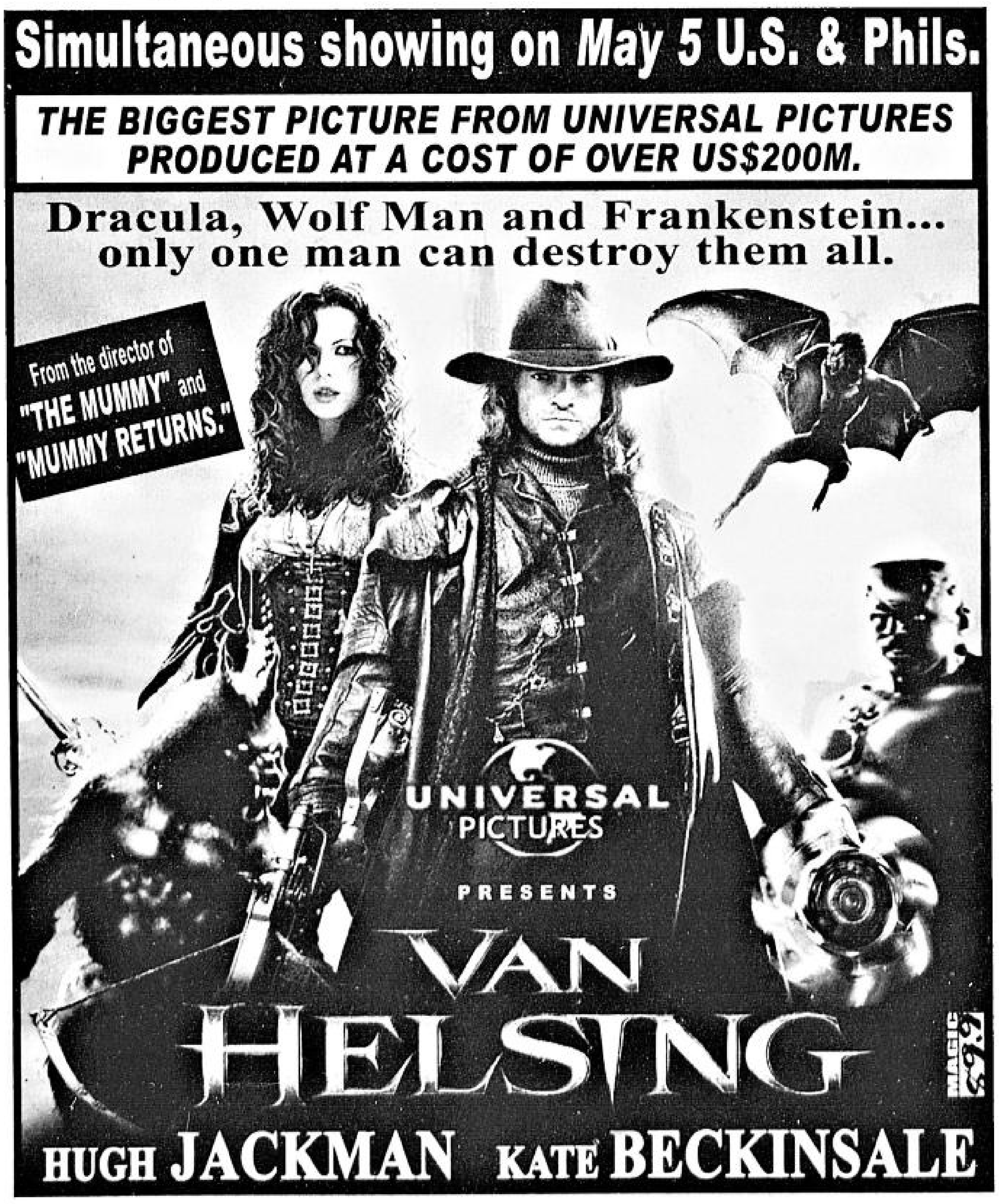
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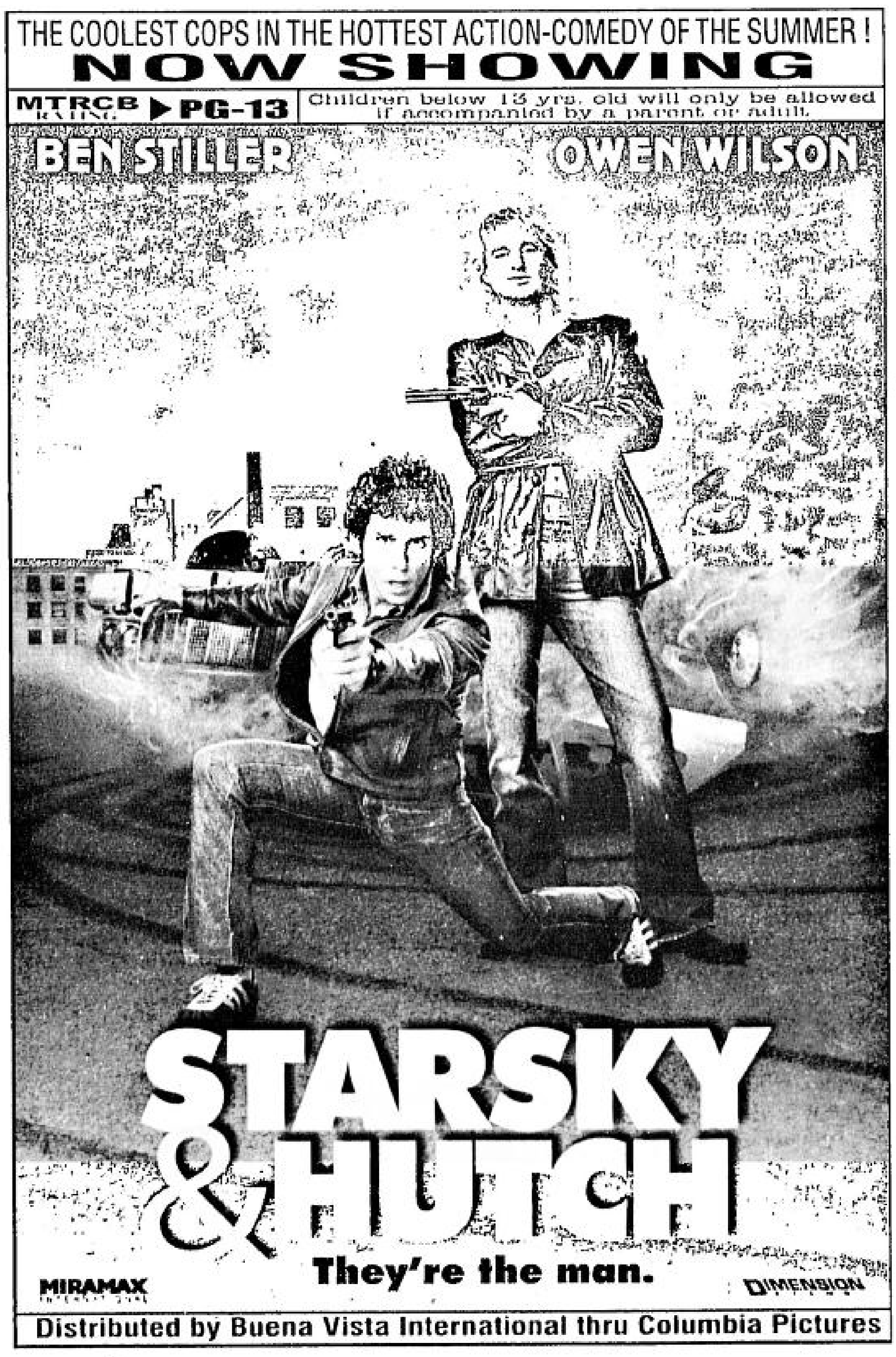
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Vigilance essential in hypertension

By Charles E. Buban

CIELITA Capulez only goes to the hospital whenever she needs to have her blood chemistry taken as part of her regular medical checkup. At 62, the widow finds it too costly to be hospitalized, and she never liked the idea of lying helpless on a hospital bed.

"I take good care of myself by taking a few precautionary steps like watching my diet, exercising regularly and always remembering to take my maintenance drug," she says.

Capulez realizes that the need for maintenance drugs increases as one ages, and the consequences of not taking them is severe.

For Capulez, who suffers from high blood pressure, taking one's medication can spell the difference between good health and hospitalization.

"It has become a morning affair for me to take my hypertension medicine (amlodipine besylate) once every day along with the rest of my vitamins," she says.

Capulez started taking amlodipine besylate (Norvasc) in 1993 to control her high blood pressure.

Norvasc was first introduced in 1990 and has become the world's leading antihypertensive (reaching worldwide sales of $4.3 billion last year).

"Before I was prescribed with the medicine, I often experienced occasional dizziness and headaches that I thought were just brought about by my menopause. But my doctor noticed my consistently high blood pressure during my regular checkup," Capulez says.

No symptoms

Like Capulez, most patients only discover they need hypertension treatment when their blood pressure is taken regularly.

"You may not have any symptoms and still have high blood pressure and the only way to know for sure is to have your blood pressure checked often," advised Dr. Mafauzy Mohamed, a professor in medicine at the Universiti Sains Malaysia, during a media briefing at the Asian-Pacific Congress of Hypertension in Singapore.

High blood pressure occurs when the blood presses against artery walls with too much force.

"High blood pressure can happen when arteries are stiff and blood has trouble flowing through them. It can become serious if it is not treated since it can lead to a heart attack, stroke or kidney disease," warns Mafauzy.

Exercise essential

To avoid these complications, patients like Capulez must strictly follow the advice of their doctors.

"Apart from the medicine I have to take once every day, I also exercise by taking a stroll with my grandchild around the village at least an hour every morning," says Capulez.

Her doctor told her that exercise could be anything—a walk around the block or at the mall—as long as it gets the heart pumping and that it is something one enjoys doing.

"Exercise (in combination with dieting), is often the first treatment prescribed for people with mild or moderate high blood pressure," Mafauzy stressed.

Science program

These guidelines were included in a program developed by Pfizer last year for Norvasc patients.

Called Science (Stop smoking, Control weight, Involve your family physician, Eat right, Note your medicine intake, Cut down on salt and alcohol, and Exercise daily), the program encourages patients to adhere to their medication and keep follow-up appointments with their doctors.

Members of the Science program are given monthly newsletters, information booklets, cell phone text message reminders, and a free starter dose of Norvasc as well as discount privileges from drugstores.

Life after a stroke

By Charles E. Buban

DEPRESSION can strike anyone, but people with serious illnesses such as stroke may be at greater, even lethal, risk of having it.

A study done last year in the United States found that of 100 stroke patients followed for 10 years, depressed adults were at least three times more likely than the nondepressed to die, even after accounting for other key influences on their health.

Depression, according to the University of Iowa Medical School's psychiatry department, may bring about weight gain, make blood stickier so it clots more easily and trigger the release of inflammatory molecules that clog arteries—all potential risk factors for stroke.

The same study reported that about 20 percent of adults develop major depression after a stroke.

"The causes of depression are currently the subject of research as it is common among those who have had strokes. We would like to address that as well as correct some misconceptions about stroke," said Dr. Cristina San Jose, training officer at the Institute of Neuroscience at St. Luke's Medical Center.

Empowering patients

Together with neurologist Natalie Apaga and psychiatrists Maria Rocio Cabio and Epifania Collantes, San Jose developed a program at St. Luke's that empowers stroke patients and encourages them to take an active part in their recovery through a multidisciplinary approach.

The program, called Life AFter First Stroke (LAFFS), was initiated last year and won third place in the patient program contest of the Stroke Society of the Philippines.

"LAFFS is not a patient support group, but rather an educational program for post-stroke patients and their relatives," said Apaga.

4 times a year

The program is held four times a year with a maximum of 25 participants, particularly those who have suffered their first stroke and who have been discharged from the hospital.

Through lectures, group dynamics and Q&A sessions, compliance with maintenance medications such as aspirin and clopidogrel (Plavix) and adherence to lifestyle modification including smoking cessation, exercise and balanced diet are impressed upon the participants.

"We always assure participants that everything they went through was normal and that depression is reversible," said Cabio.

"We want to encourage the sharing of experiences so the program's activities are conducted in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Even patients and relatives can ask our specialists one-on-one," added Collantes.

WORRY
WORRY
Worry
WORRY
Worry
WORRY
WORRY

The LAFFS program helps relatives and caregivers ease their fears and frustrations about their roles.

"Stroke survivors with committed caregivers and families improve faster and compensate for their deficits better," said San Jose.

After each program session, participants are encouraged to maintain contact to help each other cope with their condition toward eventual recovery.

Stroke vs heart attack

Misconceptions about stroke linger. San Jose noted that many people often confuse stroke for heart attack.

"Strokes and heart attacks require very different treatment so it's critical to identify which one you are having," said San Jose.

A heart attack occurs when parts of the heart muscle are deprived of oxygen and glucose due to a clot or breakaway pieces of plaque restricting the blood supply. A stroke occurs when the blood supply to a part of the brain is suddenly interrupted or when a blood vessel in the brain bursts, spilling blood into the spaces surrounding brain cells.

The symptoms of stroke may be one or a combination of the following: sudden numbness or weakness especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion or trouble speaking or understanding speech; sudden trouble seeing; sudden trouble walking; dizziness; and loss of balance or coordination.

One in 10 of the 55 million deaths that occur every year worldwide is due to stroke, making stroke the second leading cause of death, next only to heart disease.

Face: The Facts Part 2

By Genevieve Tan-Torres, M.D., FPDS

As much as knowing the basic skin care for daily maintenance is important in achieving a healthy skin, having the right lifestyle is also vital. It is imperative that one doesn't solely rely on a day-to-day regimen of using the right products for one's face but should also be wary on the way of life that one engages in.

THE LIFESTYLE

Water

Our bodies are made up of two-thirds water. And by the time you feel thirsty, you've already lost 1% of your total body water. Dehydration slows down the metabolism, and your skin reacts to dehydration by an increase in plugging due to lack of shedding of dead skin cells, making the skin look dull. An average person needs 6-8 glasses of 8 oz of water a day.

Nutrition

Eating a varied diet rich in whole, natural foods, balanced in protein, fats and carbohydrates, void of chemicals and adulteration is important to your health as well as for your skin. Health and beauty of your skin depends on this.

Exercise

No matter how you see it, exercise has been recommended again and again by experts. People who are physically fit look good and feel good. A regular exercise program lengthens your life, improve your appearance, reshape your figure and delay aging process.

Your skin benefits from exercise by maintaining a clear circulation, and calming the nerves, promoting a deeper, more revitalizing sleep,

Rest

Nowadays, people are constantly on the go. It is important we balance our busy active days. We also need enough rest and sleep. The skin will mirror a well-rested body with vitality and a healthy glow.

Smoking

Cigarette smoke robs the skin of its vitality and potential for being smooth and attractive. The skin suffers from the effects of carbon monoxide and nicotine in the circulatory system, depriving the skin tissue of the much needed oxygen and vital nutrients. People who smoke have a depleted, pallid complexion and skin that wrinkles prematurely.

Alcohol

Alcohol can dehydrate the skin and impede circulation, thus robbing the skin of precious moisture and nutrients. It also depletes the body of vitamins and minerals needed for a healthy complexion.

This health information is brought to you by Skin, Hair and Nail Health Education Program (SKINHELP) of the PDS through an educational grant from Johnson&Johnson (Philippines), Inc

ADVT

Privilege of immunity

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

IN AN EPISODE of "The Simpsons," Bart is infected with germs that try to make him sick. The white blood cells line up to face the enemy, defending his body against the invaders until Bart makes it clear that he wants to be sick so he can miss school. Learning this, the entire army of the immune system lies down and lets the germs take over.

Not all white blood cells handle the duties of protecting the body against disease; this is a job for B cells, which originate from and mature in the bone marrow, and T cells, which originate from the bone marrow but mature in the thymus.

When B cells are activated by certain T cells, they can recognize a particular germ and make antibodies to protect the human body. Similarly, the receptors of cytotoxic T cells can hone in on a specific cell and destroy it, which is useful when combating diseases such as AIDS and cancer.

Forming T cells

The antibodies produced by B cells come from the immunoglobulin (Ig) family which has many branches or isotypes such as IgM, IgG, IgD. It was always assumed that B cells and T cells originated separately in the bone marrow, but a new study suggests that B cells play a role in the formation of T cells.

A study, published in the April 15 issue of the Journal of Immunology, was conducted by immunologist Marilia Cascalho and her colleagues at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. The gist of their findings after several experiments involving mice: T cell diversity, which allows these cells to recognize and counter a variety of foreign cells, and the total T cell population are determined, at least in part, by B cell diversity.

In other words, low T cell counts could be reversed by increasing the variety and population of B cells and Ig. If clinical trials prove these findings valid, it could benefit people with weakened immune systems such as AIDS patients.

Cascalho et al.'s findings, while promising, are years away from becoming an accepted medical treatment. One form of treatment currently used for cancer patients is immunotherapy, where antibodies targeting specific cancer cells boost the patient's weakened immune system to destroy cancer cells and lessen the side effects of chemotherapy.

The demand for antibodies, however, is not easily met. Current production techniques use model systems such as yeast or cultured bacteria, but because bacterial cells are different from mammalian cells, the antibodies produced sometimes cannot function because of the way the proteins have been folded.

Expensive system

Using mammalian cells to produce antibodies is expensive and yields only small amounts of usable antibodies at a time. Increasing the production of viable antibodies requires using larger model systems such as transformed plants or transgenic animals.

Individual proteins have been produced in this manner over the last decade but as drug development seeks more specific targets, demand for more complex antibodies has increased.

Gene farming

This brings us to a paper in the April 22 issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences which offers proof that large-scale antibody production via "gene farming" is possible.

Gottfried Brem and his colleagues at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Austria combined the DNA sequences of a gene that activates T cells with one that destroys human melanoma cells. They inserted several versions of the constructed sequence into rabbit fetuses to see which version yielded the desired bispecific antibody. They then inserted the sequence into several cow fetuses, nine of which were born healthy.

Over the next several months, they found that as the normal B cells in the calves matured, the bispecific antibody also proliferated by using the cow's native Ig as a factory. Tests later showed that the bispecific antibody killed viable cancer cells.

The next time Bart tries to miss school, his immune system may simply step aside and let a complex protein face the germs. And then he'd have to go to school and take his test.

Lessons from a Nobel winner

(First of three parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

ASIDE from Einstein, and perhaps Richard Feynman, most people know very little about other notable physicists, even Nobel Prize winners. In yearbooks or capsule biographies, their award-winning discoveries are the focus. Little is known about their childhood, their early work and significant moments of their lives. Thus, it is refreshing to come across detailed descriptions of the life and times of a scientist, in his own words, no less.

Murray Gell-Mann, the 1969 Nobel Prize winner, is a Robert Andrews Millikan professor emeritus of theoretical physics at the California Institute of Technology and a distinguished fellow of the Sta. Fe Institute.

A former director of the J.D. and C.T. MacArthur Foundation, he was one of the Global Five Hundred honored by the UN Environment Program and a former member of the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology. He is also the author of the popular science book "The Quark and the Jaguar: Adventures in the Simple and the Complex."

Reflections

Last year Gell-Mann talked with John Brockman, editor of Edge, and from his reflections, we derive some important lessons. I thank my friend Chita Rosales of the Ateneo Academic Affairs for sending an e-mail of the interview. (The first-person excerpts are quoted from the article.)

Lesson No. 1: Early family influences count, including love of learning and reading.

Gell-Mann's father ran a small language school in the Bronx, and his mother was a typist. Born during the Great Depression, . the young Murray lived an austere life. But his parents tried their best to ensure a good education for him. His brother Ben was a great influence.

"He taught me almost everything I knew when I was little. Ben and I would do all sorts of things together. He loved bird-watching and we were also interested in flowering plants, trees, butterflies and many other things. After we moved back to Manhattan we still went up to the Bronx for some of our bird-watching because just north of the Bronx Zoo is the only remaining stretch of the hemlock forest that once covered the whole of New York. We regarded the city as a hemlock forest that had been overlogged, and so we spent some of our time in the small portion of the forest that was still preserved.

"I learned a number of things relatively early. My brother taught me to read from a cracker box when I was 3. We were visiting our cousins, and while we were sitting in the kitchen he showed me how to read the text on the cracker box. I picked up reading rather quickly after that, so I was somewhat ahead of other kids in learning.

"My father and brother were both interested in how to pronounce the sounds in various languages and we all practiced. Except for German and English we didn't have them exactly right, of course, but we were close.

"My interest in etymologies and the relationships among languages was stimulated by one of my father's books. When I was a little child and we moved to a tiny apartment, he had to give away his library, which beforehand was very extensive. He kept a few books though, and one of them was on Greek and Latin roots in English. That subject really fascinated me, and I never ceased being absorbed by the relationships among languages. I'm now involved, with a number of linguists, in a project I helped organize to explore very distant relationships among human languages."

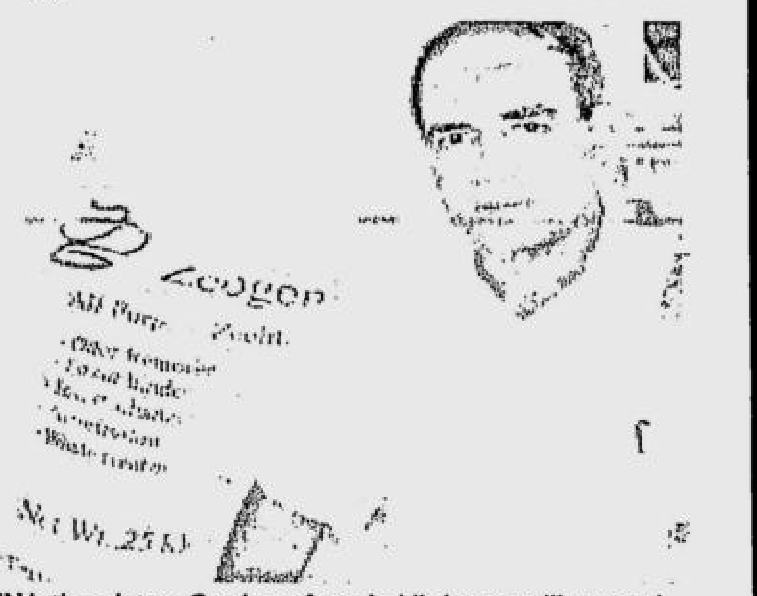
Conducive to science

Lesson No. 2: Make home life conducive to science.

Aside from the arts, the Gell-Mann household was also conducive to science. Even if his father majored in languages, he was also "very devoted to mathematics, physics and astronomy. He tried to learn advanced physics, particularly general relativity, and was a great admirer of Einstein. He never succeeded in fully understanding general relativity, but he had books on the subject and worked very hard at reading them.

"I didn't have an inordinate amount of interest in physical science, although I did like astronomy. I was more interested in natural history—birds, butterflies, flowering plants, and trees—as well as in archeology and linguistics."

Environmentalist claims having solution to foul odor



ZEOGEN is the mixture Garcia perfected while he was still engaged in ceramic technology.

By Michael B. Jaucian
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

IF GIVEN a chance, self-taught chemist and city environment officer Mariano Garcia, 58, of Barangay Guilid, Ligao City, would like to treat the Payatas solid waste dump in Quezon City to rid it of foul odor.

Garcia is confident he could help combat one of the major problems that the country is facing today—air pollution—with his discovery called Zeogen.

With Zeogen, he claims, he was able to eradicate the unbearable bad smell that used to be emitted by the solid waste dumpsite in Ligao City.

Citing what he did for the city's 2.5-hectare garbage site in Barangay Bonga, Garcia claims he is very sure he can be of help to the government and to his countrymen in combating, at least, the threat of air pollution.

A visit to Ligao City's waste disposal area by the INQUIRER proved that it was not an empty brag. The pile of trash was odorless, thanks to his chemical concoction.

GARCIA and Ligao City's 2.5-hectare garbage site. The pile of thrash is odorless.

The secret

Zeogen, Garcia says, is a powder derivative of aluminum and silicate with traces of calcium, iron, magnesium and other elements. It has the capacity to absorb ammonia, methane and ethylene gases.

He perfected the mixture in 1984 when he was still engaged in ceramic technology and exposed to substances that composed Zeogen.

Garcia explains that once Zeogen is applied or sprinkled, it automatically eliminates the bad odor and purifies the air as it absorbs the molecules of the odor-emitting substance.

According to him, the foul odor one inhales comes from decaying materials, especially garbage. It is very harmful to one's health, especially to kid's.

He says one of the most unique and peculiar features of Zeogen is that the toxins from dumpsite leachates can be arrested, thereby preserving the environment.

Fast treatment

Hermogenes Oliferes, 30, city garbage attendant, says despite the truckloads of trash dumped in their garbage site every day, its foul smell can be easily and totally eradicated in 15 minutes if treated with Zeogen.

Oliferes says that if the dumpsites in other parts of the country will be odorless like theirs, many poor people will be benefited, citing the experience of garbage pickers in the city's dump who enjoy sorting out garbage that can still be recycled like cans, plastics, cartons, copper and iron, which they sell to junk shops.

Garcia claims that one ton of garbage needs only one kilo of Zeogen.

He says Zeogen does not only purify the air but also increases the oxygen content of polluted lakes, rivers and other bodies of water.

According to Prof. Plutonio Nieves of the Bicol University Tabaco City campus, Zeogen can also be used as a biological oxygen for polluted fishponds to avoid fish kill.

Garcia says the chemical does not only eliminate odor but also drives away insects like flies and cockroaches, which are considered carriers of bacteria and viruses.

It can also be used in eliminating the bad smell of septic tanks, open canals, poultry and piggery floors, he adds.

"And producing Zeogen is easy," he says.

The city environment officer says he only uses an equipment called hammer and rock mill to powderize the compound minerals. The raw materials are always available, since these can be found anywhere, especially near volcanic areas.

Mayor Fernando Gonzalez says Garcia's discovery is the most unique, useful, economical and effective way to address one of the country's serious problems—air pollution from garbage.

With his discovery's satisfactory effects, Garcia claims that orders are now coming in.

While he used to cater only to friends and orders of small quantities, he says he is now ready to serve bigger ones under the business name Terrene Enterprise.

Study says insomniac toddlers likely to become troubled teeners

BOYS who had trouble sleeping as toddlers are more likely to become early users of alcohol and marijuana than those who slept well, a new study reports.

The lead researcher of the study, Dr. Maria M. Wong of the University of Michigan, said a link between insomnia and drug and alcohol abuse had already been found in adults but the link had barely been explored earlier in life.

Her study, published in the journal Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research, drew on data from a long-running project that tracked 155 sons of alcoholics and 102 sons of nonalcoholics. Wong compared the mothers' ratings of sleep problems at ages 3 to 5 with the boys' reports of drug, alcohol and cigarette use at ages 12 to 14.

She found that in each group the boys who had trouble sleeping were more than twice as likely to have tried alcohol or marijuana by early adolescence than those who did not. Overall, half of those with sleep problems started using alcohol early.

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SCORE: 1-4 Good; 5-7 Very Good; 8-10 Excellent

Dianne Villafuerte

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E-mail your questions at dentalqs@yahoo.com.

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MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

(First of two parts)

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Many previously die-hard Roco supporters shifted loyalties, afraid that a cancerous prostate is not compatible with effective six-year governance.

The vital question lingers: Is a person with prostate cancer doomed to a life of physical disability and restrictions?

First, let's know a little bit more about the prostate and how to detect its problems.

Role in reproduction

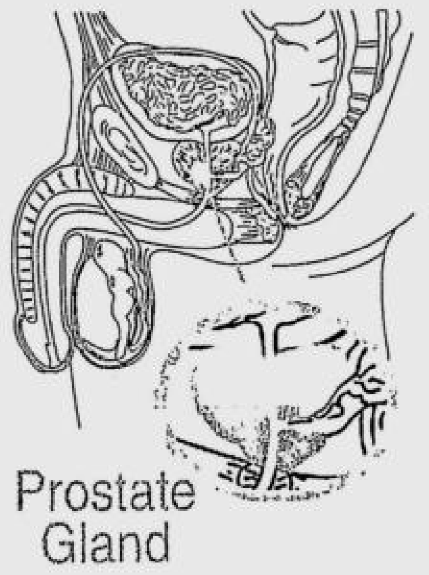
The prostate is a gland in a man's reproductive system. It makes and stores seminal fluid, which is that milky fluid that nourishes sperm and is released with it during ejaculation.

Located below the urinary bladder and in front of the rectum, it surrounds the upper part of the urethra, the tube that empties urine from the bladder. An enlarged prostate impedes the flow of urine.

How does cancer develop? Normally, cells grow and divide to form new cells in an orderly way. They perform their functions for a while, and then they die. This process helps keep the body healthy.

When cancer develops in any organ, the cells keep dividing and creating new cells that the body does not need. They form a mass of tissue, called a growth or tumor.

The growth in the prostate gland can be noncancerous as in benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH). This can usually be removed, and in most cases, does not come back. Cells from BPH do not spread to other parts of the body. Most important, benign tumors of the prostate are not a threat to life.



Other organs affected

In prostate cancer, the cells divide without control or order; they just keep on multiplying. They can invade and damage nearby tissues and organs. Also, cancer cells can break away from a malignant tumor and enter the bloodstream and lymphatic system, spreading from the original (primary) cancer site to form new (secondary) tumors in other organs.

The spread of cancer is called metastasis.

When prostate cancer spreads (metastasizes) outside the prostate, cancer cells are often found in nearby lymph nodes. If the cancer has reached these nodes, it means that cancer cells may have spread to other parts of the body—other lymph nodes and other organs, such as the bones, and this can present as severe bone pains.

A cancer that has spread from its original location to another part of the body has the same kind of abnormal cells and the same name as the primary tumor. Hence, if prostate cancer spreads to the bones, the cancer cells in the new tumor are prostate cancer cells and the disease is called metastatic prostate cancer, not bone cancer.

Risk factors

Who's at risk of developing prostate cancer?

Studies have found that the following risk factors are associated with this type of malignancy:

- **Age.** The average age of patients at the time of diagnosis is 70. Males over 55 are at risk.
- **Family history.** If a first-degree relative has had prostate cancer, a man's risk for developing it is higher.
- **Race.** It appears to be relatively more common among Caucasians than Asians.
- **Dietary factors.** A high-fat diet may increase the risk of prostate cancer; a diet high in fruits and vegetables may decrease the risk.
- **Currently being investigated** is if BPH, obesity, lack of exercise, smoking, radiation exposure or a sexually transmitted virus could increase the risk of developing prostate cancer. At this time, there is little evidence that these factors contribute to an increased risk.

Symptoms

How does one suspect prostate cancer? Early prostate cancer often does not cause symptoms. But prostate cancer can cause any of these problems:

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Although any of these symptoms may be caused by cancer or by other, less serious health problems such as BPH or an infection, the presence of severe bone pains and loss of weight are more strongly suggestive of a cancer which has spread.

(Next week: Treatment and long-term outlook)

Neutrogena
DEEP CLEAN
Extra Gentle Cleanser

Healthy skin regimen for thoroughly clean, visibly healthy looking skin

You got only one face so pamper it to the hilt.

Dermatologists say that having flawless skin -- pimple-free sans freckles and warts, is genetic. However, a beauty regimen which involves cleansing, toning & moisturizing, coupled with a healthy lifestyle can help in giving you visibly healthy-looking skin.

A good skin care regimen always starts with cleansing. Choosing the right facial cleansers depend on one's skin type. It is best to ask your dermatologist on what type of cleanser would be safe to use on your face so as to avoid irritation. Make sure you only use cleansers that rinse thoroughly and do not leave behind any harmful residue.

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ADVT

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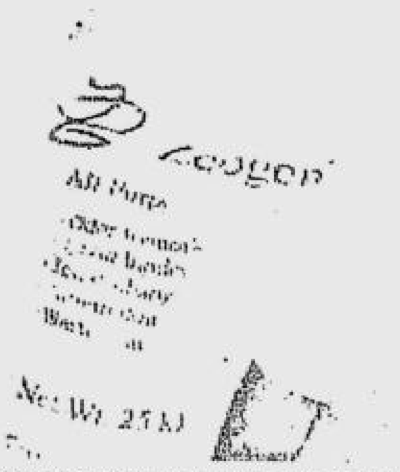
Environmentalist claims having solution to foul odor



ZEOGEN is the mixture Garcia perfected while he was still engaged in ceramic technology.

By Michael B. Jaucian
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

IF GIVEN a chance, self-taught chemist and city environment officer Mariano Garcia, 58, of Barangay Guilid, Ligao City, would like to treat the Payatas solid waste dump in Quezon City to rid it of foul odor.

Garcia is confident he could help combat one of the major problems that the country is facing today—air pollution—with his discovery called Zeogen.

With Zeogen, he claims, he was able to eradicate the unbearable bad smell that used to be emitted by the solid waste dumpsite in Ligao City.

Citing what he did for the city's 2.5-hectare garbage site in Barangay Bonga, Garcia claims he is very sure he can be of help to the government and to his countrymen in combating, at least, the threat of air pollution.

A visit to Ligao City's waste disposal area by the INQUIRER proved that it was not an empty brag. The pile of trash was odorless, thanks to his chemical concoction.

GARCIA and Ligao City's 2.5-hectare garbage site. The pile of thrash is odorless.

The secret

Zeogen, Garcia says, is a powder derivative of aluminum and silicate with traces of calcium, iron, magnesium and other elements. It has the capacity to absorb ammonia, methane and ethylene gases.

He perfected the mixture in 1984 when he was still engaged in ceramic technology and exposed to substances that composed Zeogen.

Garcia explains that once Zeogen is applied or sprinkled, it automatically eliminates the bad odor and purifies the air as it absorbs the molecules of the odor-emitting substance.

According to him, the foul odor one inhales comes from decaying materials, especially garbage. It is very harmful to one's health, especially to kid's.

He says one of the most unique and peculiar features of Zeogen is that the toxins from dumpsite leachates can be arrested, thereby preserving the environment.

Fast treatment

Hermogenes Oliferes, 30, city garbage attendant, says despite the truckloads of trash dumped in their garbage site every day, its foul smell can be easily and totally eradicated in 15 minutes if treated with Zeogen.

Oliferes says that if the dumpsites in other parts of the country will be odorless like theirs, many poor people will be benefited, citing the experience of garbage pickers in the city's dump who enjoy sorting out garbage that can still be recycled like cans, plastics, cartons, copper and iron, which they sell to junk shops.

Garcia claims that one ton of garbage needs only one kilo of Zeogen.

He says Zeogen does not only purify the air but also increases the oxygen content of polluted lakes, rivers and other bodies of water.

According to Prof. Plutonio Nieves of the Bicol University Tabaco City campus, Zeogen can also be used as a biological oxygen for polluted fishponds to avoid fish kill.

Garcia says the chemical does not only eliminate odor but also drives away insects like flies and cockroaches, which are considered carriers of bacteria and viruses.

It can also be used in eliminating the bad smell of septic tanks, open canals, poultry and piggery floors, he adds.

"And producing Zeogen is easy," he says.

The city environment officer says he only uses an equipment called hammer and rock mill to powderize the compound minerals. The raw materials are always available, since these can be found anywhere, especially near volcanic areas.

Mayor Fernando Gonzalez says Garcia's discovery is the most unique, useful, economical and effective way to address one of the country's serious problems—air pollution from garbage.

With his discovery's satisfactory effects, Garcia claims that orders are now coming in.

While he used to cater only to friends and orders of small quantities, he says he is now ready to serve bigger ones under the business name Terrene Enterprise.

Study says insomniac toddlers likely to become troubled teeners

BOYS who had trouble sleeping as toddlers are more likely to become early users of alcohol and marijuana than those who slept well, a new study reports.

The lead researcher of the study, Dr. Maria M. Wong of the University of Michigan, said a link between insomnia and drug and alcohol abuse had already been found in adults but the link had barely been explored earlier in life.

Her study, published in the journal Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research, drew on data from a long-running project that tracked 155 sons of alcoholics and 102 sons of nonalcoholics. Wong compared the mothers' ratings of sleep problems at ages 3 to 5 with the boys' reports of drug, alcohol and cigarette use at ages 12 to 14.

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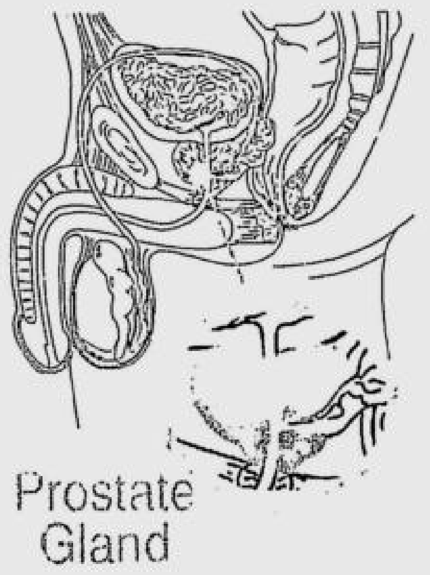

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BUSINESS

BIR turns down insurance firms' plea to suspend tax collection

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has turned down the plea of non-life insurance companies to temporarily spare them from the collection of withholding tax, a move that would adversely affect government's effort to generate additional revenue.

BIR Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said that there is no reason for government to stop collecting withholding tax from insurance companies and their clients because the tax-withholding system is simple, and not complicated as the insurance firms claim.

"Why would they ask for the suspension (of the collection of the tax) when the rules governing them are very simple," said Henares.

She also ordered insurance companies to remit the 10-percent tax on brokers' commission, otherwise the amount would be added to their income tax liabilities.

'Non-life insurance companies earlier asked the Department of Finance to suspend the collection of creditable withholding tax until they have worked out the alleged problems in the tax collection system.

RP may boost trade with New Zealand

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT is mulling over plans to boost its partnership with New Zealand and beef up the exchange of expertise and technology between the two countries, according to Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima.

The government is also looking to new Zealand as a source of raw materials for Philippine export products, he said.

Purisima explained that with tighter cooperation between the two countries, local small and medium enterprises stand to benefit from the technology exchange by teaming up with New Zealand companies.

The locals may also expect market encounters with SMEs in the South Pacific nation.

"Further trade ties with New Zealand would boost our program for SMEs, especially for those engaged in food processing and other export products," he said.

Data from the Department of Trade and Industry show that exports to New Zealand reached $35.8 million in 2003, an increase of 70 percent from $21 million in the previous year.

Philippine exports to New Zealand include electronics and chemicals, processed food and resource-based products such as coconut products, seaweed and carrageenan.

On the other hand, the New Zealand import bill amounted to $256 million last year or 15 percent higher than the $222 million posted in 2002.

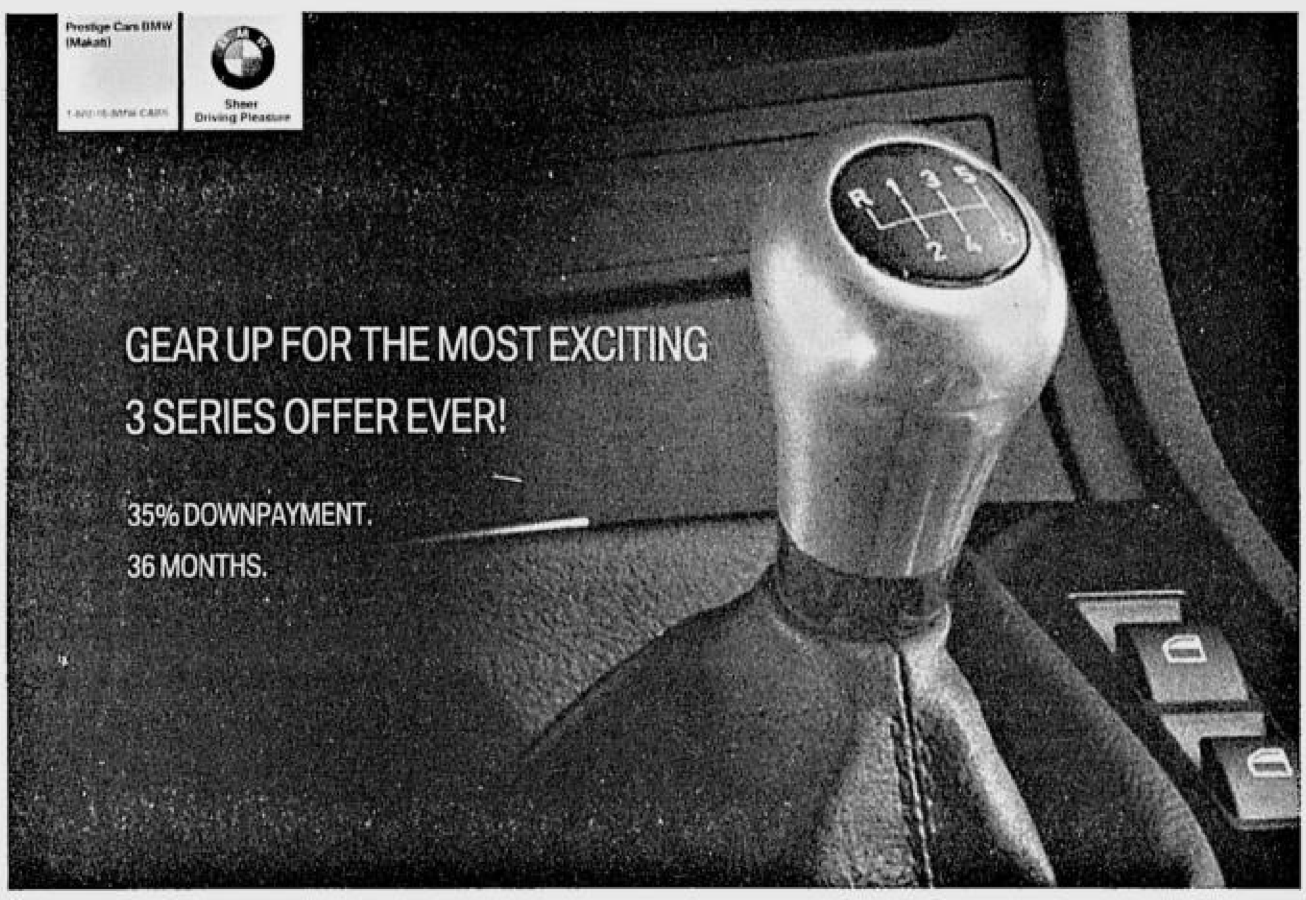
Major imports include processed food like dairy products and resource-based products.

"Our food exporters can build links with companies (there) and find opportunities to find buyers and match their products," Purisima said.

He also said that the country may find the raw materials needed for local industries like furniture-making in New Zealand, which count forestry and wood processing as some of its largest industries.

Last year, the Philippines imported forest products from New Zealand, including $7.6 million worth of logs, $10 million worth of lumber, $4.8 million worth of plywood and veneer and $1.8 million worth of pulp wood.

"We can also work strategically with their exporters and firms engaged in furniture design and manufacturing," Purisima said. "That way, we can also develop our capabilities to address the demands of the international market."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· Pinahahalagahan ng Pag-IBIG Fund ang bawat manggagawa; Alam namin na sa bawat buwanang kontribusyon 'nyo, dugo at pawis ang inyong iginugol;

· At dahil dito, ginagawa ng Pag-IBIG Fund ang lahat upang ang inyong pondo ay lalo pang lumawig at lumago bilang tagapamahala nito;

· Sa ilalim ng Administrasyong Arroyo, ang Pag-IBIG Fund ay mas naging matatag at matibay.

Tumaas ang net income ng 105.9% -- P5.6 bilyon noong 2003 versus P2.7 bilyon noong 2000

Lumago ang total assets ng 30.4% -- P148.4 bilyon noong 2003 versus P113.8 bilyon noong 2000

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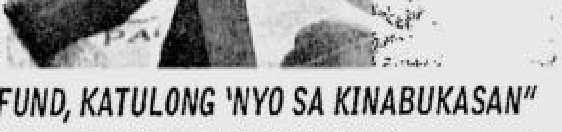


E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre ■ *Assistant Editor* Rito P. Asilo

Hayley Westenra savors success at 16

F*ROM Paul Galera*: "I recently discovered Hayley Westenra and her music. Her voice reminds me of Charlotte Church's. Is it true that she was discovered while singing on a sidewalk?"

Hayley Westenra, 16, was only six years old when she first sang at her school's Christmas program. After winning the loudest applause, she knew that performing was going to be a big part of her life.

By the time she was 11, while trying to find an avenue to quench a craving to perform, she discovered the "joys" of busking (a busker is a street entertainer who "solicits" money from passersby), and found the experience financially rewarding and fulfilling. Soon, her younger sister and brother joined her money-making exploits on the streets. She also performed as a singing telegram.

Personal gift

The following year, Westenra used the money she earned from busking to make a recording of her voice as a personal gift to family and friends. The product of that recording inspired a generous benefactor, who was impressed with the young talent's bell-like vocal quality, to shell out some money to press 1,000 copies—which rapidly sold out! Shortly thereafter, Universal Records knocked on her door. —And the rest is history.

In Hayley's 13-track international debut album, "Pure," the songs play like they're specifically meant to showcase an angelic voice reminiscent of Charlotte Church's, with a lot of help from Sir George Martin (the man responsible for the Beatles' success in the '60s).

Interesting tracks: The Maorian (the New Zealand dialect used in "Whale Rider") chanting and singing in "Pokarekare Ana" and "Hine E Hine" with the Te Taur Choir; Andrew Nicholson's flute in Ennio Morricone's "Across the Universe of Time"; Kate Bush's "Wuthering Heights"; Karl Jenkins' meditative "Benedictus" and Carl Orff's "In Trutina" (from "Carmina Burana").

'Cabaret' auditions

The New Voice Company will hold auditions today and on May 8, 1-5 p.m., for its 10th anniversary production, the new version of Kander and Ebb's "Cabaret," as reimagined by directors Sam Mendes ("American Beauty") and Rob Marshall ("Chicago"), at the NVC Actors Studio, 8020 Tanguile st., San Antonio Village, Makati. Prepare two songs that will showcase your vocal range and acting ability. Call 896-5497.

WESTENRA. Bell-like vocal quality.

THE BAND has a knack for communicating universal sentiments.

Truefaith scores with acoustic album

By Noelani Torre

TRUEFAITH is one of those bands that appeal to almost everybody. And if you listen to their newest release, "Eto hits . . . acoustic" (EMI), you'll see why the band has kept on going when others have fallen by the musical wayside.

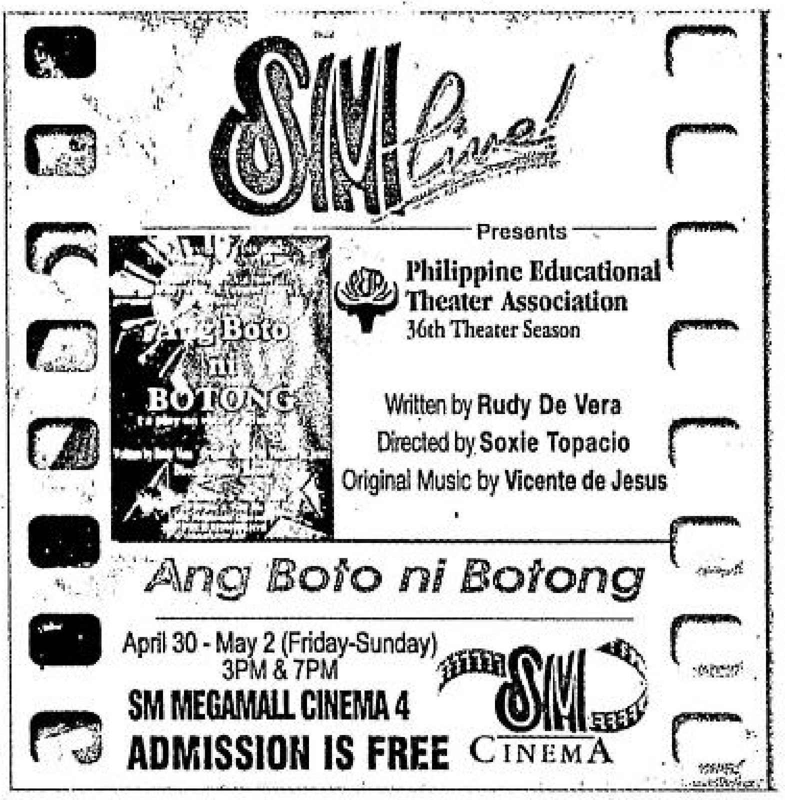
One of the groups that brought about the local scene's brief but serious band obsession during the early '90s, Truefaith has weathered a major break-up, management problems, a dud album, and a court battle of sorts.

Second wave

These days the band is riding high on a second wave of success, with their songs enjoying heavy airplay on both radio and television (that ubiquitous Nescafé commercial has their song, "Sumasarap ang Gising," for a theme). Their line-up has Medwin Marfil as vocalist and brother Eugene as band manager, Bimbo Yance as bassist, Jun Dizon as drummer, Jay Valencia as guitarist, and Jake Lumacad on keyboards.

"Eto hits . . . acoustic" isn't the band's first hits collection—they released "Memories are Cheap: The Best of Truefaith, 1993-2000" back in 2000—but it is their first acoustic one,

TRUEFAITH/ C3



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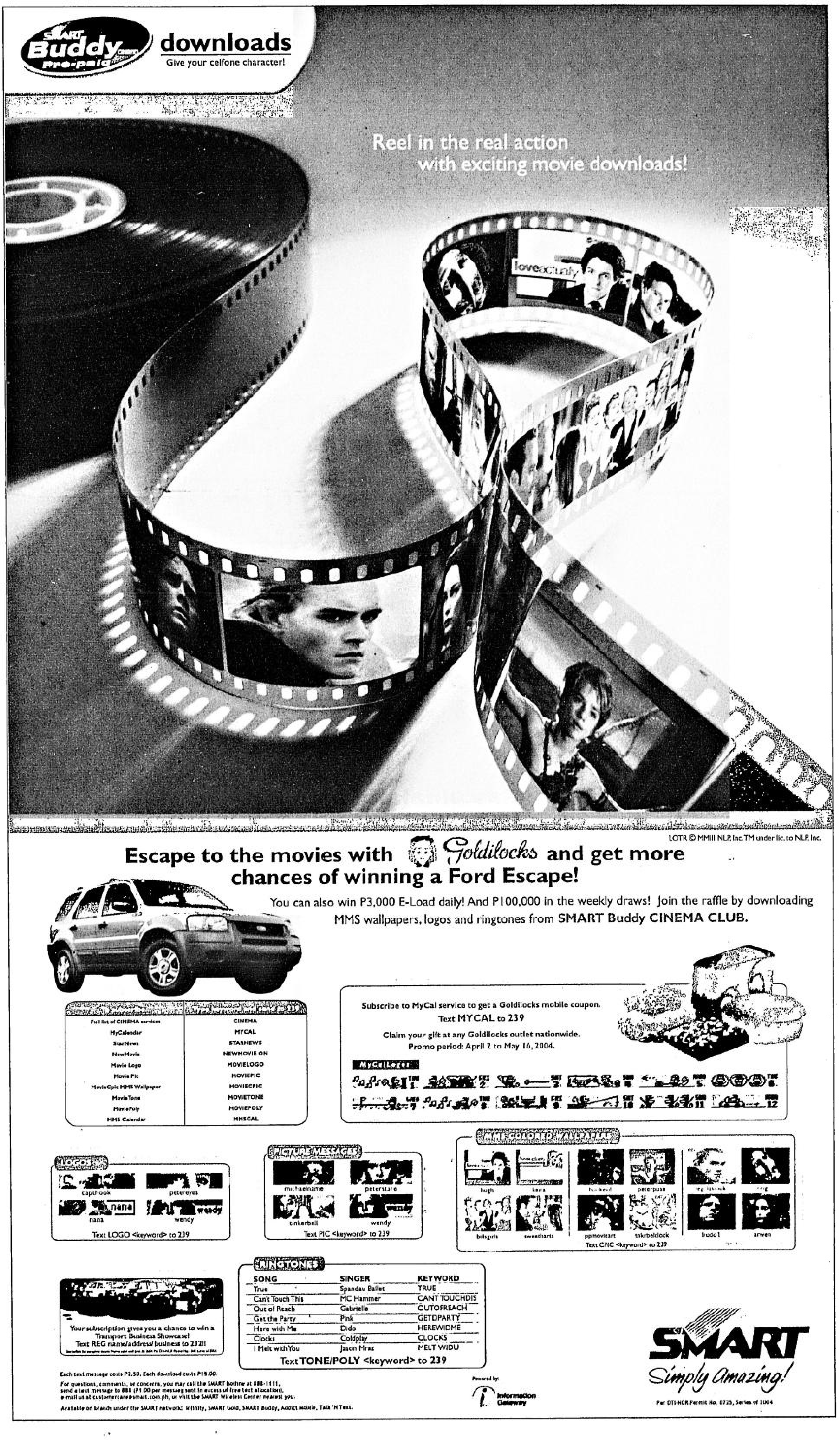

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YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM MAY 1 - MAY 7

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	25	29
[illegible]	6:00 Star in A Million 6:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 8:30 Home Along da Airport 9:00 Victim 9:30 Buttercup 10:30 Kontrobersyal 11:30 "F" 12:00 Sports Unlimited	6:00 National Geographic 7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player	4:00 PBA Games 9:00 Sing Galing 10:00 Lente 11:00 ABC Treats	6:00 Starstruck Kids 7:00 Imbestigador 8:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 9:30 Kakabakaba Adventures 10:30 Celebrity Turns 11:30 Master Showman	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	6:00 Opinyon at Desisiyon 7:00 Bitag 7:30 9-Ball Tirador 9:00 Nina 10:00 String of Hearts 11:00 Iyo ang Katarungan	6:00 Baywatch 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 The Amazing Race 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deel	6:00 Agila Reports 6:30 Screen Savers 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 Car Guys 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Ang Tamang Daan 10:00 Pasugo	6:00 RJ Music Videos 9:00 Music Videos 10:00 Music Videos 11:00 Music Videos
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Friends share fond memories of Lino Brocka

By Nestor U. Torre

ON MAY 21, it shall have been 13 years since film master Lino Brocka died in a car crash that tragically put a stop to his local and international movie career's upward trajectory.

Since Lino's death anniversary was hardly observed last year, and many young people today don't know much about him, some of his friends decided to meet earlier this month to honor him with their fond recollections, and to coordinate efforts to remind people of his gift to Philippine and world cinema on the 13th anniversary of his passing this month.

Lino's friends included Behn Cervantes, Haydee Yorac, Au Cobarrubias, Laurice Guillen, Mitch Valdes, Tommy Abuel, Lollie Mara, Norma Japitana, Dulce and this writer.

Favorite hangout

We met at our "mature *barkada's*" favorite hangout, Chito and Au Cobarrubias' well-appointed and welcoming home, and toasted Lino with wine and potluck culinary surprises that kept us bubbly and full of bonhomie for hours on end.

Before sharing our fondest and most appreciative memories of Lino, we cheered Haydee for her amazing recovery from her serious illnesses last year.

We recalled the time when we visited the then very ill Haydee at a relative's condo in Makati, after she had just been released from the hospital. She was so weak then that the condo was outfitted like a hospital room, full of state-of-the-art medical equipment.

Hospital gowns

Before being allowed inside, we had to don hospital gowns and masks, to make sure that we wouldn't infect the recovering patient's restricted environment.

When we finally saw Haydee, our hearts sank, because she looked so weak and wan, and had all sorts of tubes sticking out of her.

Flashforward less than a year, and now, here was Haydee at Au's place last month, so healthy and vital! We thanked God for His "renewed gift" of Haydee to us. The country needs her more than ever!

BROCKA. From stereotypical *promdi* to world-class director.

Then, on to Lino: Behn led off, as most properly he should, since he had known Lino longer than any of us—since 1956!

They were both freshmen at UP, but they were worlds apart in terms of background: Behn was a wellborn *tisoy* from La Salle, while Lino was the stereotypical *promdi*, with thick accent and all.

For some fated reason, however, Lino and Behn became friends, and they set their sights on joining Freddie Guerrero's "elite" UP Dramatic Club.

Alas, Lino's accent did him in, snooty student thespians laughed at him during rehearsals, and the poor *promdi* lost heart and concentrated instead on "menial" backstage chores.

First production

Behn decided to take his new friend in hand, and together with Joonee Gamboa and Adul de Leon, he opened some doors for Lino.

For instance, when Behn was asked to direct his first production, Thomas Heggen's "Mister Roberts," he cast Lino as Ensign Pulver.

However, there came a time when the two fast friends had a falling out, which lasted for a number of years. But they were eventually brought back together by their activist political beliefs, which culminated in their being put behind bars for allegedly agitating jeepney drivers during a transport strike.

Looking back on all those colorful, tumultuous years with Lino, Behn shared that he loved Lino most not for his talent and friendship, but for his genuine love for the "small" people he worked with. *(To be continued)*

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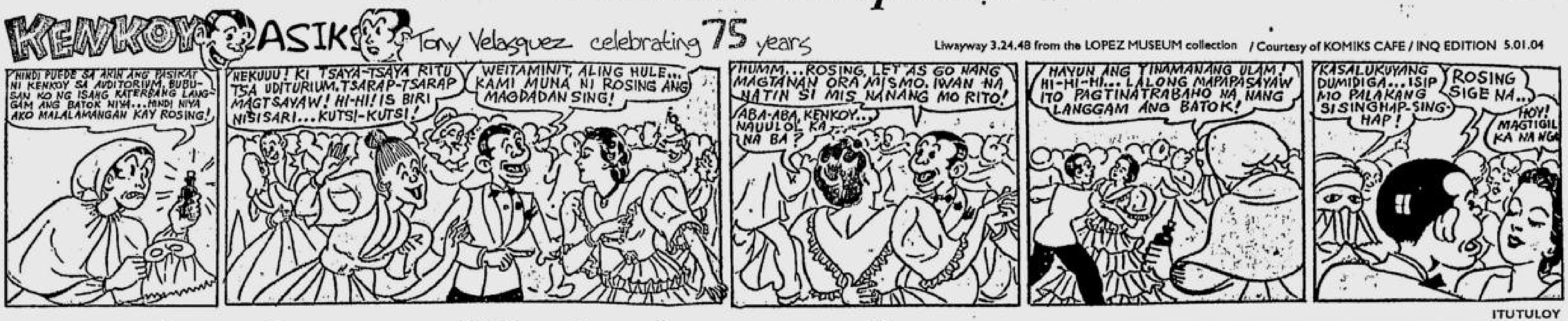
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ITUTULOY

Bernal welcomes filmic change of pace

By Andy Bais

EVEN if her latest film, "Masikip sa Dibdib," didn't perform as well as expected, Joyce Bernal is still in high spirits. *"Hindi man siya kumita ng malaki, hindi naman* flop. At last, *nakagawa ako ng hindi* romantic comedy. It's the kind of film *na* either *magugustuhan mo o hindi.* Doing the movie was a gamble on Rufa Mae's and my part," explains Joyce.

10 films

Among the more than 10 films that she has helmed, Joyce considers her latest output as a welcome breather from the romantic comedies that she is identified with.

Even better, she's all set to do a "different" film for Viva later this year. "It's a love story *na masakit at maganda ang* script, *malutong ang mga linya ni* Michiko Yamamoto (award-winning writer of "Magnifico"). *Kaya ko siya nagustuhan,"* she relates.

The frail-looking director was a respected film editor before she decided to try directing.

BERNAL. From editor to director.

It was Viva's Vic del Rosario who gave her the big break. *"Hindi ko pinangarap na maging* director. I was contented with editing, *kasi yun talaga ang unang trabahong napamahal sa akin.* Editing is important *kasi ikaw ang responsable sa* end-product. That's why editing became my passion," Joyce enthuses.

But, she did her first film, anyway—"I'm Sorry, My Love," starring Judy Ann Santos and Onemig Bondoc. She got depressed when she saw it. *"Hindi ko nagustuhan!* After that, *ayoko nang maging* director," she says.

But, Joyce was really destined to be a director: Her debut movie made money, and before she knew it, she was given a follow-up project.

Most memorable

"Dahil May Isang Ikaw," her second film, with Aga Muhlach and Regine Velasquez, proved to be her most memorable movie, thus far. *"Doon ko nagustuhang mag-direk, kasi para siyang* excursion. I had so much fun, *at naging* best friends *ko ang mga artista. Iba kasi ang* feeling if your actors give their all *sa* project. *Ako kasi, bigay todo kung magtrabaho,"* she beams.

She watches her films in moviehouses at the rear of the orchestra section. *"Doon, naririnig ko ang* reaction *ng mga tao. Tapos,* I go to the comfort room—*para marinig ang mga* no-holds-barred comments," she shares.

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Paradise in Batangas

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

IT was almost midnight when our van reached Bauan, Batangas. We unloaded our stuff onto a waiting *banca* that took us on a three-minute ride to our destination.

As out boat cut through the dark waters, we felt more like spies on a mission than a family going for a weekend break at a beach resort.

Dive resorts

The place was no Marriott Hotel, but it was clean. Like most dive resorts in Batangas, the wonders of El Capitan lay outside.

The next morning, we had breakfast with the resort's owners, Capt. Ted Gonzalez and his wife, Josie—old friends since I used to work for PAL as a flight attendant.

CAPT. Ted Gonzales, left, with wife Josie.

The resort was named after the owner, a retired airline pilot. Capt. Gonzalez flew for 31 years before he spent the last few years of his career with Korean Airlines.

In the early '80s, then a DC-10 captain, Gonzalez became interested in scuba diving. His family would spend weekends in Batangas. He was eventually offered a beachside property.

Six rooms

Soon, divers from Anilao began asking if he was renting out his house. He turned them down. But, Josie liked the idea, and suggested putting up rooms for rent. They started with six rooms.

Their experiment soon paid off—and they had to keep adding rooms!

Today, El Capitan has 17 rooms sitting on 7,200 square meters of land.

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Food-tripping in 'Frisco

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

SAN FRANCISCO, California—On my way to Salt Lake City, I had to spend one day in San Francisco. I arrived in the morning, and was already imagining what I would be having for lunch.

I opted for a Super Star burger at Carl's Jr., with a fried zucchini on the side.

At dinner, my sister Mariles had made reservations at Broadway Prime in San Bruno. This new restaurant is a replica of the famous House of Prime Rib. I had the largest cut of slowly-roasted beef. While it was indeed delicious, I still preferred the original. I found the steak a bit bland.

Food tripper

After our trip to Salt Lake, I came back via 'Frisco, and this time, my other sister Nina, also a food tripper, was there. Grand Palace Seafood restaurant is fairly new, but the place was packed.

We had steamed chicken feet with black bean sauce, steamed pork dumpling, steamed barbeque pork buns, deep fried taro root dumpling, baked barbeque pork buns, steamed shrimp dumpling, steamed phoenix scallops, golden fried shrimp balls, spicy beef tendons, stir fried rice noodles with chicken, Peking duck roll, Hong Kong-style duck roll, honey walnut prawns and sticky rice in lotus leaves. Everything was outstanding! The prawns with walnuts was the discovery of that meal.

Next door

After lunch, we went next door to a Mexican deli, "Tapatia," that sold authentic *burritos,* tacos and *chalupas.* Fillings varied from chicken, beef, carnitas to *asado.* The *carnitas* were the most attractive. These were crunchy chunks of pork similar to our Ilokano *bagnet,* chopped and dumped into a tortilla wrap with a few other ingredients like guacamole, rice and some spicy sauce to make a huge burrito. Truly authentic-tasting and absolutely superb!

Then, we went to a birthday dinner for my nephew Charsi where his uncle Bombet grilled some Hebrew National hotdogs, thick burgers and Prime-grade rib eye steaks. I was so full when I boarded the plane back to Vancouver!

Happy eating!

Truefaith scores . . .

From page C1

making them one of the last to jump onto the acoustic bandwagon.

Unlike other so-called acoustic collections, however, this one is the real thing. That a lot of the songs were already acoustic in the first place means that you won't have to suffer through songs that have become lame sans technological padding.

Interestingly, the collection is produced by Francis Guevarra, head of Virgin-EMI and one of Truefaith's founding members with whom the group quarreled and split years ago. Guevarra's acting as producer for his former band evidently means that the quarrel has been patched up.

12 songs

The CD has 12 songs, two of which—"Mistake Number 3" and "Different Seasons"—are not originals.

Album-opener is "Hi" (a song that always reminds us of the Beatles' own "Hello" song), culled from their third album, 1995's "Build."

Also from this platinum album are the songs "Alaala" and "Baliw." Both guitar-driven, they are hook-laden and unabashedly pop, sounding as though they were made especially for radio.

It *was* radio that launched the band's career more than 10 years ago. "Perfect," the group's first hit, was also their first song which they released to the public via a demo copy submitted to 99.5RT. "Perfect" hit the airwaves, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Romantic love

Though most of Truefaith's songs dwell on one subject—romantic love—their approaches are varied and, in this collection, at least, are never boring. One of our favorites is "Huwag na Lang Kaya," from 1994's "Beyond Doubt."

This knack for communicating universal sentiments in a manner that is introspective but not sentimental is one of the band's strengths, and one of the reasons why their songs sound like classics—even when they're new.

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SATURDAY Special

Key lessons learned from 'American Idol'

By Nestor U. Torre

NOW that "American Idol" can be seen locally on Star World on its third year, viewers here finally have a chance to understand why the talent search has been so popular, and why it has successfully launched the careers of so many heretofore unknown singers.

It is hoped that, as the third season continues to unreel on Star World, local talents can learn valuable lessons from the show on how to really make it in show biz.

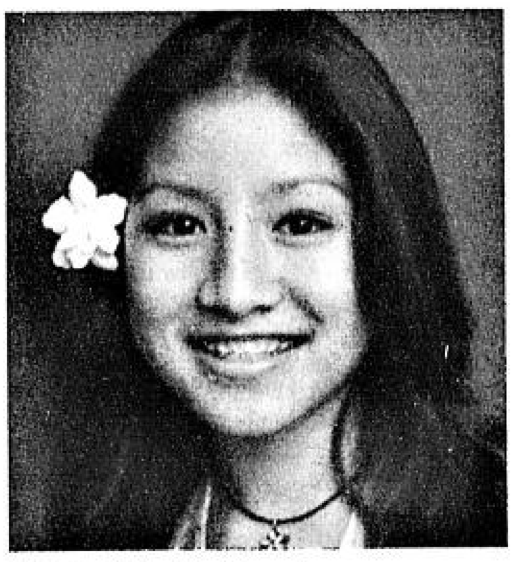
Making it

On the local entertainment scene, making it is sometimes more a question of good looks than genuine performing talent. On "American Idol," however, the best-looking young singers are among the first to get eliminated.

Clearly, the show is saying that lovers of real entertainment shouldn't be fixated on beautiful faces and bodacious bodies, because those physical attributes don't last, and their appeal quickly palls, because it *is* skin-deep.

Viewpoint

Let's hope that both performers and viewers learn from this, and similarly value talent over looks on the local entertainment scene. This adjusted viewpoint will go a long way in raising the quality of singing here.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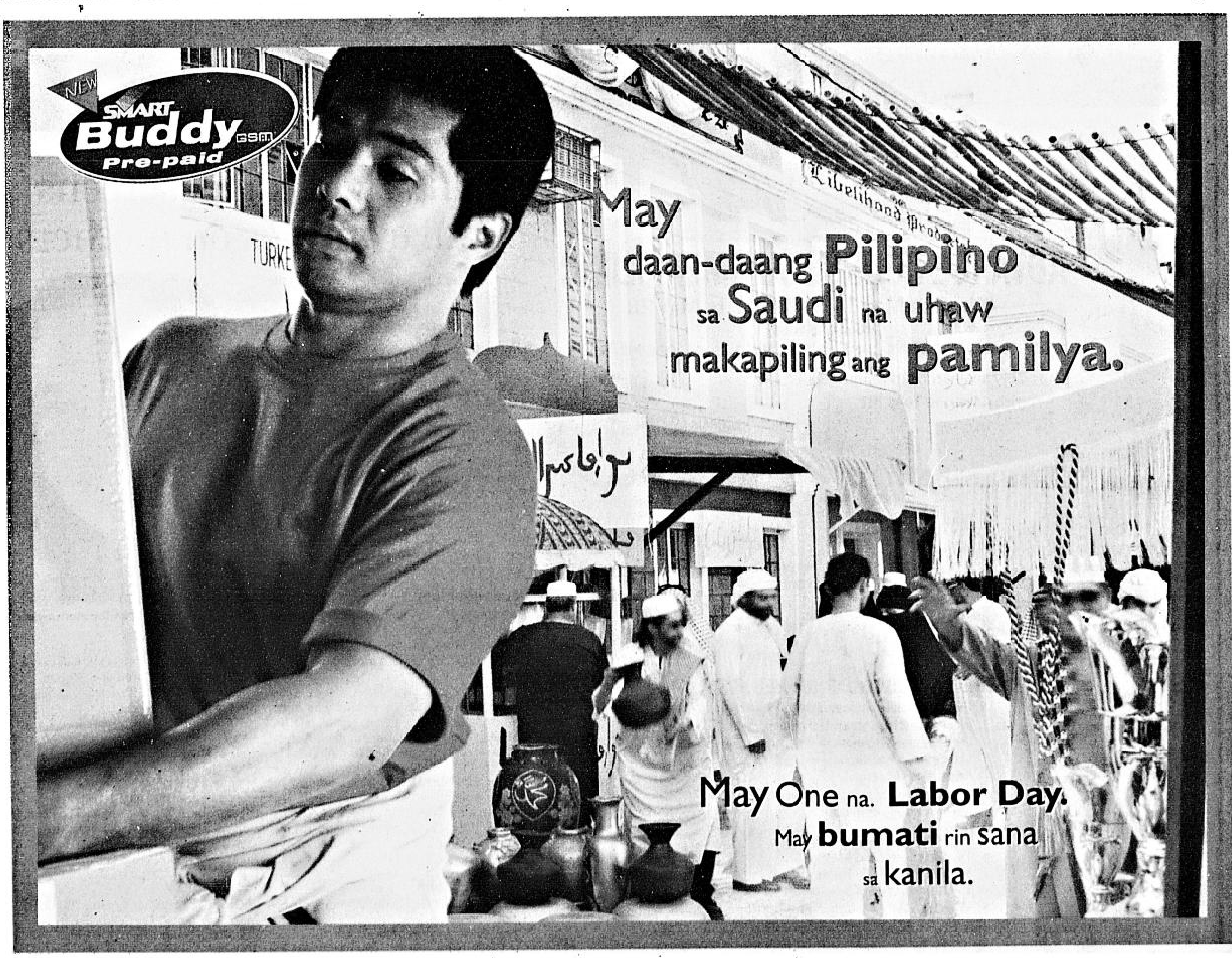

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NOW SHOWING

Jack Black plays unlikely hero in zany comedy

By Rito P. Asilo

"School of Rock"

D: Richard Linklater
S: Jack Black, Joan Cusack

AFTER his band fires him, a failed rock musician (the outstanding Jack Black) fakes his way into a job as a fifth grade substitute teacher out of desperation to make his rent. Slowly, he turns his prep school class into a rock band—without the knowledge of the school administration, of course!

Nope, Richard Linklater's ("Before Sunrise") fun-filled movie doesn't have the lofty ideals of "Mr. Holland's Opus," "Dangerous Minds," "Music of the Heart" or "Mona Lisa Smile," but his film succeeds where those movies fail: With an unlikely hero and his good-natured principal muse (the consistently charming Cusack), "Rock" comes off as a delightfully unpredictable winner devoid of the melodramatic we-can-change-the-world mush common among films with similar themes.

"Starsky and Hutch"

D: Todd Phillips
S: Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson

Stiller and Wilson team up for the sixth time in this enjoyable big-screen adaptation of the popular cop-buddy TV series of the '70s—when big hair, Manilow songs, tacky clothes, and loud disco music were cool.

With tongues firmly in cheek, the actors play an unlikely team—the sexually repressed, hyperkinetic Dave Starsky (Stiller) and the morally ambivalent Ken "Hutch" Hutchinson (Wilson)—as they solve their first big case against a ruthless drug lord (Vince Vaughn). Watch out for some fun treats: a cameo of original actors Paul Michael Glaser and David Soul; the brilliant Will Ferrell's gay con man, and Wilson's sweet crooning of Soul's classic, "Don't Give Up On Us."

"Man on Fire"

D: Tony Scott
S: Denzel Washington, Dakota Fanning

Tony Scott's compelling but predictable—and highly improbable—revenge drama will have action fans cheering for a superb Denzel Washington, who plays an ex-Marine who outwits the bad guys who kidnap the girl (Fanning) he was hired to protect, and whom he has grown to love.

Scott employs crisp editing and a stylish storytelling technique that initially distract from Brian Helgeland's ("Mystic River") engaging but worn-out storyline—and is 40 minutes too long! This is how Stallone and Schwarzenegger's movies would look like—if they knew how to act!

Also in theaters:

Toto Natividad's **"Animal,"** violent, overwrought and unimaginative, follows the dated exploits of a gang of rich brats from powerful families as they wreak havoc on a fictitious suburban town. They kidnap, beat up, gang-rape, and leave two sisters for dead and get the expected comeuppance when one of them squeals.

In Howard Deutch's **"The Whole Ten Yards,"** Oz (Perry) and Jimmy the Tulip (Willis), now fully domesticated with his aspiring assassin-wife (Amanda Peet)—Oz's former dental assistant—cross paths again after Lazlo Gogolak (Kevin Pollak), recently released from prison, kidnaps Oz's wife (Natasha Henstridge) to settle a score against the man who falsified some dental records that led to his conviction. This sequel to the 2000 hit, "The Whole Nine Yards," has some funny physical-comedy touches, but they immediately lose steam.

Billy Chung's **"Haunted Spirit"** (originally called "Shiver" in Hong Kong) is a quirky, technically-polished psychological thriller *cum* revenge drama, *not* a horror film—about a negligent cop's wife who sees strange visions, and, yes, dead people, after getting shot in the head during a shootout—littered with scary, cringe-inducing images.

STILLER AND WILSON. Sixth movie together.

Hallmark Channel screens popular movies on mothers

MONTAGE

SINCE Mother's Day is celebrated during the month of May, the Hallmark Channel has lined up the more popular "mom-themed" films in its extensive library for showing on May 7 ("Heart of a Stranger"), May 10 ("Mother Knows Best"), May 11 ("The Great Mom Swap") and May 12 ("Hunger Point").

In addition, a number of TV debuts are scheduled for films on the channel's 9 p.m. Movie Premieres timeslot: May 6, "A Time to Remember," about an artist who discovers that her mother is suffering form Alzheimer's. May 8, "Going Underground," on the battered wife syndrome.

May 9, "Audrey's Rain," on a surrogate mother who is given a new chance at happiness. May 13, "Choosing Matthias," on a bereaved couple who take in an orphaned boy.

LAXA. Recipient of 2004 Top Mom award.

Bond with Mom

Dreamscape, the family entertainment center at Robinson's Galleria, presents Bond with Mom, an afternoon of fun activities for children and their mothers at 2 p.m. on May 1.

The fun event's highlight is a Look Alike contest for moms and their kids who dress and act the same. Plus games, exhibit booths, sampling of products, dance numbers by mascots, prizes and freebies. Registration starts at 10 a.m. Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan will be hailed as 2004 Top Mom.

In addition, the whole family can enjoy the many exciting rides at Dreamscape, like the Super Sonic V roller coaster, Grand Parade carousel, Roaring Rapids and Speed Bugs bump cars. Call 636-2911.

Stars shine at EK

This weekend (May 1 and 2) promises to be a star-studded affair at Enchanted Kingdom in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Mingle with stars in Celebrities at Your Service from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on May 1, as luminaries like Jao Mapa, Sunshine Dizon, Regine Tolentino and Niño Muhlach act as ticket-takers, ride attendants, order-takers and ice cream-scoopers! Proceeds will be donated to the LIFT B.A.B.I.E.S. Foundation.

Also, go shopping with stars like Jolina Magdangal and Janice and Gelli de Belen, who will be selling various products at a Celebrity Bazaar from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on May 1 and 2.

On May 2, GMA-7's "S.O.P." will be telecast live from the park. And at 6:30 p.m., Jolina entertains her fans with a musical show at the Spaceport. Call 830-2111.

Festival Supermall

The "Jump, Dash & Ride" treats at Festival Supermall in Alabang will run until May 2. Mountain bikers join a fun race; sports-minded families can take part in the Fitness Advantage Urban Challenge; there will be competitions and clinics for badminton enthusiasts; and the Carousel Court is the venue for a Sports and Hobbies Fair. Call 850-3514.

Movies on TV

On HBO, May 1 at 1 p.m., "Big Fat Liar." May 2 at 2 p.m., "The Salton Sea." May 3 at 9 p.m., "The Fellowship of the Ring." May 4 at 10 p.m., "Six Feet Under." May 5 at 9 p.m., "The Majestic." May 6 at 1 p.m., "The Amazing Panda Adventure." May 7 at 11:30 a.m., "Save the Last Dance."

On Cinemax, May 1 at 12:30 p.m., "A Death in the Family." May 2 at 2 p.m., "Lean on Me." May 3 at 9 p.m., "Accidental Hero." May 4 at 6 a.m., "The People Across the Lake." May 5 at 12:15 a.m., "The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad." May 6 at 6:30 a.m., "The Bridges at Toko-Ri." May 7 at 3:45 p.m., "This Property Is Condemned."

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What Hollywood stars are doing for an encore

By Nestor U. Torre

THERON. Plays miner in sexual harassment drama.

AFTER setting the screen on fire with unusually acclaimed or popular projects, and sometimes even winning awards in the process, stars have to think hard and long before deciding on what to do for an encore.

They're nervous because a hit sets a high standard that's difficult to match or surpass. And, if they come up with a flop, it could cancel out some of the cachet they've gained.

Oscar derby

Take some of the winners in last year's Oscar derby. Charlize Theron won an award for her gutsy performance in "Monster."

After the euphoria of that signal achievement had ebbed, Theron decided that her best encore would be a film in which she would play a miner involved in a sexual harassment suit.

Shades of Julia Roberts in "Erin Brockovich"? Close—and Theron hopes that her new movie will do as much for her as Roberts' landmark film gambit boosted her thespic reputation in the film trade.

Clout

Halle Berry, another Oscar winner (for "Monster's Ball") is opting to go for the popular jugular with her own follow-up vehicle, "Catwoman." Her thinking is, if her "superheroine" flick adds to her clout at the box office, it'll make it that much easier for her to find financing for the artistically challenging films she really wants to make.

Realities

That goes double for Renee Zellweger, whose own Oscar for best supporting actress hasn't blinded her to the realities of the movie marketplace. Her new starrer is a safe bet for hit status, a sequel to her box-office smash, "Bridget Jones' Diary," titled "The Edge of Reason."

Finally, Mr. Hollywood himself, Tom Hanks, is next starring in "The Terminal," where he plays an Eastern European who travels to the United States. Trouble is, his country is caught up in a coup while he's in New York, so he has to make the airport terminal his home!

Key lessons . . .

From page D1

Another point that "American Idol" stresses in its verdicts is that performers should be original, and shouldn't ape the singing styles of established musical performers.

Again, this flies in the face of local practice, which values *gaya-gaya* singers who can sound and move exactly like foreign music icons.

Colonial mentality

We do this because our colonial mentality refuses to go away, despite the fact that it's been more than 50 years since our last colonizer officially left us to our own devices.

We have been "trained" to value foreign standards over our own, so the performer who sounds and moves exactly like Michael Jackson is deemed better than the singer who does his own musical thing and doesn't ape a foreign singing star. Happily, remaining Fil-Am finalist Jasmine Trias is a good example of a performer with an original singing style.

"American Idol" shows that this attitude is *so* wrong. When a contestant on the show sounds like a name singer, he's criticized instead of praised.

What's the point here? Talent has to be original to be truly interesting. Sounding and moving like a well-known musical star is for impersonators, not genuine performing artists.

Finally, "American Idol" criticizes its contestants when they choose to play it safe in terms of their musical choices. It stresses taking risks, instead of just doing the same, old thing.

Will local performers be similarly daring in their attitude? It's about time!

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-291 Series of 2004.

SATURDAY *Special*

Caviezel goes from Jesus to champion golfer

CAVIEZEL. "The Passion's" success has increased his fan base.

LOS ANGELES—For Jim Caviezel, taking the role of golfer Bobby Jones in a new movie was a no-brainer.

Caviezel had just finished being beaten to a bloody pulp, nailed to a wooden cross and hung until he died playing Jesus Christ in Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ." "After getting whacked around a few times, I thought playing a little golf might be a nice change," Caviezel told Reuters.

Grand slam

He jokes that he went from playing the "King of Kings" to being the "King of Swings." Jones is considered one of the greatest golfers who ever lived. He is the only player to win a coveted "grand slam" of golf, claiming four straight victories in the four major tournaments of his day, which he did in 1930.

But, "Bobby Jones: Stroke of Genius" focuses on the player's human side as he battled personal problems and illness that threatened to derail his career.

At age 28, he quit playing golf to fulfill a promise to his wife to stay at home and help raise a family.

Caviezel said he took the part because he admired how Jones never shirked his responsibility as a role model. Jones held degrees in engineering and law, was a practicing attorney, and spoke six languages. *Reuters*

MUHLACH AND SEGUERRA. Knew how to act, and talked a blue streak.

Nurturing good child talents

By Nestor U. Torre

HOW do you discover, develop and nurture new child performers who can become as outstanding as Niño Muhlach and Aiza Seguerra? At the moment, two talent searches on TV are trying to do just that, with not very exciting results. How can they do better?

They should go beyond making *tisoy* good looks and *pa*-cute appeal their basic requirements. As the search programs show, looks and cuteness can't hold viewers' attention for a long time. *Talent* should be the name of the game.

Big mistake

While auditioning for possible contestants, the search programs should deliberately be on the lookout for kids who are good at acting, singing, dancing and talking a blue streak. A big mistake is being made when the searchers think that those skills can be taught *after* the finalists have been chosen on point of looks and cuteness.

As the current search shows all too sadly indicate, those skills can't be taught overnight. Their child discoveries are particularly inept at singing, thus making their musical numbers a disappointing exercise in futility.

Goodlooking children also tend to be too full of themselves, which makes them spoiled, undisciplined, and thus, not very reliable workers in the entertainment trade.

Prospective stage parents should quickly learn that, in show biz, time is money, so child talents who can't deliver on cue are simply not hired.

Last week, for instance, we saw some young finalists throw tantrums on TV and refuse to perform. Now, it's perfectly natural for very young children to turn testy at times—but not in show biz! You can bet that those recalcitrant kids will get some debit points in their respective competitions.

Chatterboxes

So, future child stars shouldn't just be cute and talented, but they should be "unnaturally" disciplined, too. And they should be chatterboxes! Note that, when they were child stars, Niño and Aiza weren't great singers and dancers, but they knew how to act, and they talked a blue streak!

That's why viewers loved them, because they were so entertainingly garrulous—and what they said made great, entertaining sense. Televiewers loved them for their precocious gift of gab, and they became popular stars for many years.

That's the sort of children that the searches should be discovering, not the unfocused, bratty finalists we're getting these days.

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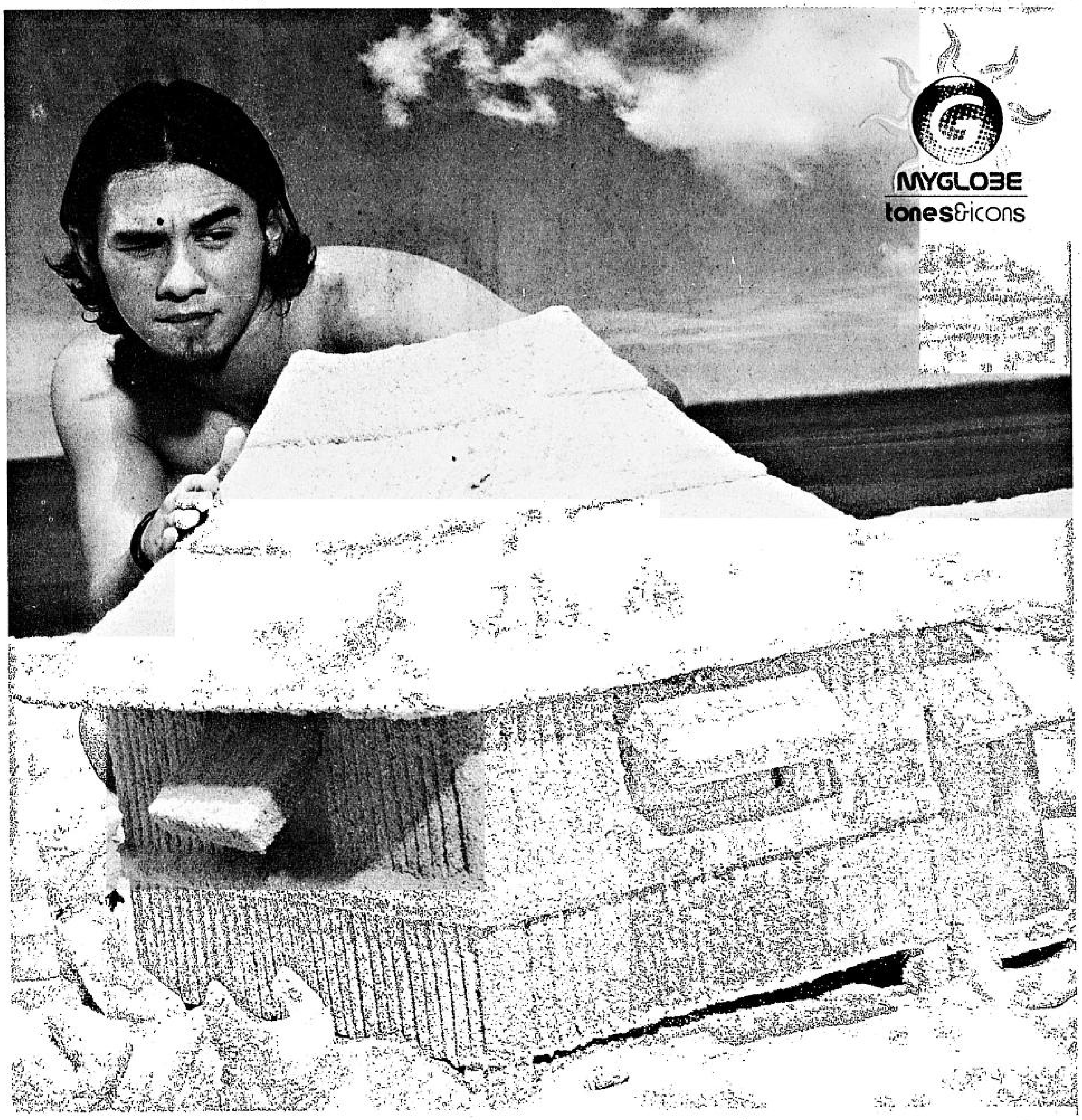

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A SPECIAL PROJECT OF COLGATE AND

THE PDA CELEBRATES ANOTHER MILESTONE

The Philippine Dental Association will hold its 96th Annual Convention and Scientific Meeting this coming April 30-May 6, 2004 at the Philippine International Convention Center. This year's theme is "Membership Empowerment for a Stronger PDA." This occasion will culminate the yearlong activities which were spearheaded by its President Dr. Arsenio Donesa.

The opening ceremony will take place on Sunday, May 2 at the PICC Plenary Hall. The President of the American Dental Association, Dr. Eugene Sekiguchi will be the Keynote Speaker and Guest of Honor. Dr. Sekiguchi will be the first ADA President to grace a PDA convention. He will be accompanied by his wife and other members of the ADA, most of which are Filipino American dentists who are now residing and practicing in the US.

The Scientific Meeting promises to be a very interesting one. Aside from the lectures on current trends and updates in modern dentistry, there will be "participative workshops" on selected specialties designed for interested delegates. Also, a forum for newly licensed dentists will be held to address concerns on how to begin in private practice. Other delegates are also welcome to join these talks. There will also be the usual table clinics and consultations from respective affiliate specialty groups, designed for general practitioners.

Incoming President Dr. Walfrido Cruz, who is also the overall Chairman of the convention, is excited and optimistic about the forthcoming affair. According to him, there are already about 4,000 pre-registrants - a number which surpassed last year's total overall attendance during the Asia Pacific Dental Congress.

Like in the past years, Colgate will again host the Presidents' Night which will be on May 5 at the Main Ballroom of the Westin Philippine Plaza. This is in honor of the official transfer of authority from outgoing President Dr. Arsenio Donesa to the President-Elect, Dr. Walfrido Cruz.

TWO WAYS TO BRING BACK SMILES

The Philippine Dental Association (PDA) is committed to bring back the smile into the lives of as many Filipinos as they can reach. Since their inception, they have put in motion a large number of projects that fulfill this aim. From basic programs like proper oral health education, to free dental clinics, to more focused programs such as free dental surgery.

Two of the programs that have been making a difference in the lives of the less fortunate are the Operation Sagip Ngiti Program and the Colgate Oral Health Month (OHM). These two worthwhile initiatives are aimed at reaching Filipinos at the rural levels, and giving them something to smile about.

ORAL HEALTH MONTH

Saving Filipinos from cavities

check-ups
ORAL HEALTH

Last February, Colgate's Oral Health Month and the PDA took centerstage as it was celebrated with a whole slew of activities that brought dental health care so much closer to the Filipino. To commemorate this important event, Colgate's Save the World from Cavities Mission was more than ably supported by the Philippine Dental Association and the Department of Education. All three organizations pulled out all the stops to ensure that the celebration was a huge success.

Free dental check-ups were conducted in 200 public schools nationwide. So there was no excuse for not being able to have one's teeth checked. Children and adults were invited to spend a weekend in a public school nearby and avail of these free check-ups by volunteer dentists. Plus, free Colgate toothpastes and toothbrushes were given away to make sure that the public continues to take care of their teeth at home. Since Oral Health Month aims to educate the public on proper dental health care, Dr. Rabbit, the Colgate mascot, also helped by reinforcing the 4 key oral hygiene tips in supermarkets nationwide:

1) Brush your teeth after eating or at least twice a day
2) Use a toothpaste with fluoride
3) Avoid eating sweets which could lead to tooth decay
4) Consult your dentist at least once a year

Celebrating Oral Health Month last February was a wonderful way to start a life-long habit of proper dental health. Let's show how much we love our teeth by taking good care of it every single day of the year.

OPERATION SAGIP NGITI PROGRAM

Making people's lives better.

People with cleft lips and cleft palates used to find it hard to smile because of their condition. But thanks to the PDA, they were given hope that they could smile again.

Operation Sagip Ngiti is a program that helps less fortunate patients who cannot afford to undergo cleft lip and palate operations. With the help of different organizations, free surgeries are now given to people with this problem. Just last year, more than 300 patients were able to avail of this program. This was courtesy of the Cavite Dental Society, as well as other local chapters and affiliate chapters of the PDA nationwide.

This year, during the weeklong celebration of the National Dental Health Week, the different dental chapters once again held this free surgery program to bring back more smiles to more of our countrymen.

Helping the PDA out in the Operation Sagip Ngiti program are the Philippine College of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and the AFP Dental Society.

BRIGHT SMILES, BRIGHT FUTURES

Creating Brighter Smiles In Schools

For the past 7 years, Colgate has been saving the world from cavities with its Bright Smiles, Bright Futures Program. Colgate, the Philippine Dental Association and the Department of Education have been going to public schools to teach kids proper brushing and dental care. In fact, just to show how serious the three partners are in making the children realize the importance of proper dental health, the program has been included in the Grades 1, 2 and 3 curricula.

MEMBERSHIP EMPOWERMENT FOR A STRONGER PDA · PHILIPPINE DENTAL ASSOCIATION & Colgate Total

My sincerest felicitations to the officers and members of the Philippine Dental Association (PDA) on the occasion of your PDA 96th Annual Convention and Scientific Meeting.

Your theme, "Membership Empowerment for a Stronger PDA," seeks to further the skills and knowledge and strengthen the fellowship among your members. I believe that through your association, you will each try to contribute to our vision of a strong Philippine Republic.

I commend your unrelenting efforts in raising your profession to world standards by bringing in modern techniques and equipment for the betterment of your patients and our kababayans.

I enjoin you to work with me in realizing the dreams and aspirations of our people for a better life. I am glad that there are institutions, like yours, that are committed to effective programs and projects aimed at raising the level of your profession for the common good. Keep up the good work!

Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

Warm greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Dental Association (PDA) on the holding of their 96th Annual Convention and Scientific Meeting on April 30 – May 6, 2004.

Oral health is equally important compared to other health concerns in improving the quality of life and the socio-economic development of the country. Your theme, "Membership Empowerment for a Stronger PDA" speaks of your group's determined goal of achieving a healthy citizenry through a comprehensive approach. It compliments, furthermore, our government's efforts of strengthening and empowering health workers to be able to provide greater opportunity of serving our people with efficiency.

My congratulations to the members of PDA for their accomplishments and continued dedication in improving the delivery of dental care services nationwide. May you sustain your worthy and noble undertaking as we work together in leading our nation into greater prosperity and better health and welfare of our people.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT MD, MSc
Secretary
Department of Health

It is with distinct pleasure that I greet all our officers, delegates, guests, lecturers and friends from the dental trade who will take part in this year's PDA 96th Annual Convention and Scientific Meeting from April 30 – May 6, 2004 at the Philippine International Convention Center with the theme: "Membership Empowerment for a Stronger PDA."

This year's convention holds a special significance because the organizers have pooled all their efforts to present a diverse and well conceptualized convention that will enhance the professional standing of our members. Truly, a wonderful learning and educational experience awaits everyone as they will be treated to the latest developments and new ideas in dental science.

With this, I extend my warm congratulations to President-elect and General Chairman of the PDA 96th Annual Convention, Dr. Walfrido P. Cruz.

Godspeed!

DR. ARSENIO C. DONESA
President
Philippine Dental Association

It is with pride that I extend my warmest greetings to all the delegates and participants of the Philippine Dental Association's (PDA) 96th Annual Convention and Scientific Meeting on May 1-6, 2004 at the Philippine International Convention Center. Indeed, it is exciting to be a part of such a momentous occasion. It is the most opportune time to re-examine our goals, and look forward to the realization of those goals.

Our theme: "Membership Empowerment for a Stronger PDA" embodies our vision for a unified PDA. We recognize the role of each and every member in the success of our Organization. Everyone of us is called upon to give contributions or share no matter how big or small, to be able to accomplish the insurmountable tasks ahead of us.

Let us all bear in mind that no task is too hard to accomplish if we pool all our resources and harness our efforts in creating an environment conducive to professional growth within our Association and beyond.

The Philippine Dental Association has continuously recognized the need to keep its members abreast with current trends and needs of the dental practice. As dentists, we must welcome the changes occurring around us, and let us not be intimidated by the changes taking place, and what the future holds. Let us embrace the challenges and seize the opportunities that change offers.

The 96th PDA Convention prides itself in having no less than the President of the American Dental Association in the person of Dr. Eugene Sekiguchi as the Keynote Speaker.

To the Executive and Organizing Committees of this year's Convention and to all who contributed to ensure the success of the 96th PDA Annual Convention and Scientific Meeting, I thank them in the name of PDA. Their help, no matter how great or small, shall be etched in the thankful heart of every PDA member. So to all of us, all the best and I am looking forward to your help and support.

Walfrido P. Cruz
WALFRIDO P. CRUZ, DMD
President-Elect & General Chairman
96th PDA Annual Convention & Scientific Meeting

I am pleased to congratulate you on your celebration of the 96th Philippine Dental Association Convention and Scientific Meeting. This event will surely be another milestone in the distinguished history of the PDA.

This year's theme, "Membership Empowerment for a Stronger PDA", gives the PDA members the recognition they've always deserved. After all, the success of all the PDA programs and events in the past would not have been possible without the perseverance, will and hard work the PDA members put into it. Thus, it is quite timely to dedicate this year's celebration to those who truly put their heart and soul into the PDA.

We at Colgate recognize the commitment demonstrated by the members of the PDA. And it has inspired us to come up with our own programs which share their vision of providing every Filipino with proper oral health care. The partnership between Colgate and the PDA has benefited both parties as well as the Filipino people. Programs such as the Oral Health Month's Free Dental Check-Ups and the Bright Smiles, Bright Futures program for the schoolchildren have brought smiling faces to both the young and the old alike.

It is my fervent hope that the PDA will continue to work hand in hand with Colgate in order to ensure that our goal of bringing oral health technology to the consumer may be accomplished in the best manner possible.

Again, congratulations and good luck to all your future endeavors.

ANTONIO CAMPOS-NETO
President & General Manager
Colgate-Palmolive Philippines, Inc.

DATE / TIME	ACTIVIT
April 30, 2004 – Friday	
1:00pm- 5:00pm	Ingress of Contr Registration Kits Committee
May 1, 2004 – Saturday	
9:00am- 5:00pm	Ingress of Trade
8:00am- 4:00pm	Registration
9:00am-12:00nn	Pierre Fauchard
2:00pm-11:00pm	ICD Convocatio
May 2, 2004 - Sunday	
8:00am- 4:00pm	Registration
8:00am- 9:00am	Holy Mass
9:00am-11:30am	Opening Cerem
11:30am-12:00nn	Formal Opening
1:00pm- 4:00pm	Health Screenin
1:00pm- 5:00pm	Scientific Meeti
6:00pm-12:00midnight	Fellowship Nigh
May 3, 2004 – Monday	
8:00am- 4:00pm	Registration
8:00am- 5:00pm	Scientific Meeti
9:00am- 5:00pm	Presidents' Dial
9:00am- 6:00pm	Trade Exhibits
8:00am- 4:00pm	Health Screenin
8:00am-10:00am	Deans Meeting
10:00am- 1:00pm	Alumni Homec
7:00pm-12:00midnight	House of Deleg
May 4, 2004 – Tuesday	
8:00am- 4:00pm	Registration
8:00am- 3:00pm	Election of PDA
8:00am- 5:00pm	Scientific Meeti
8:00am- 4:00pm	Health Screenin
9:00am- 6:00pm	Trade Exhibits
7:00pm-12:00midnight	Awards Night
May 5, 2004 – Wednesday	
8:00am- 4:00pm	Registration
8:00am- 4:00pm	Health Screenin
8:00am-12:00nn	House of Deleg
8:00am- 5:00pm	Scientific Meeti
9:00am- 6:00pm	Trade Exhibits
5:00pm-12:00midnight	Presidents' Nigh
May 6, 2004 – Thursday	
8:00am-12:00nn	Registration
8:00am- 5:00pm	Scientific Meeti
9:00am- 1:00pm	Trade Exhibits
6:00pm-12:00midnight	Appreciation Ni

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- Use a toothpaste with fluoride
- Avoid eating sweets which could lead to tooth decay
- Consult your dentist at least once a year

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APRIL 30 - MAY 6, 2004 • PICC

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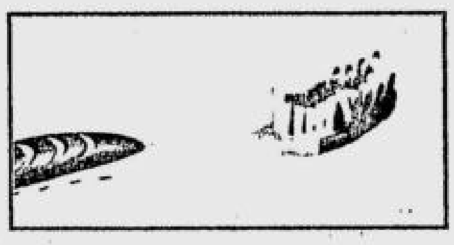

The latest breakthrough addition to Colgate's Oral Care products, the new Colgate Massager Toothbrush promises you a unique, invigorating way to clean your teeth. Its innovative soft, rubber bristles massage and stimulate your gums to help keep them healthy. Just as it relaxes, this toothbrush cleans unlike any other toothbrush as well. Its flexible head adapts to your teeth's contours, while multi-length bristles go deep between the teeth to remove plaque and residue that a regular toothbrush may not reach. To make brushing easier, it has a wide handle and rubber cushioned grip for better comfort and control. In short, these features give you that invigorating "aaaahhhh" feeling in the mouth every time you brush your teeth.

To keep your teeth and gums healthy, try the new Colgate Massager Toothbrush.

COLGATE SIMPLY WHITE

Whiter teeth in a minute

Colgate
Simply White
Clear Whitening GEL

Getting whiter teeth used to be a chore. This usually meant waiting for hours in a clinic, and other time-consuming processes. But thanks to Colgate's advanced dental technology, all these are reduced to a minute a day, for just 14 days. All courtesy of a breakthrough called Colgate Simply White. Colgate Simply White is the first-of-its-kind teeth whitening product designed for home use. It's a clear whitening gel that's simple to use, affordable and effective. All you need to do is take the applicator and brush the gel directly on to your teeth. Do this twice a day for 2 weeks, and you'll see the sparkling results.

Colgate Simply White works more effectively in helping you get whiter teeth. It works both at the intrinsic and extrinsic surfaces of the teeth to make them sparklingly white, at a fraction of the time.

Having been in the market for months, people from different backgrounds have tried the product. They were all smiles when asked about the results. Some have seen improvements after just days into the program, and all of them attest that after 14 days, they've got a big reason to smile - whiter teeth that you're proud to show off.

Don't waste a minute more. Get into the white habit by using Colgate Simply White.

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Plax
Plax Fresh
Plax Fresh

Colgate Total Plax contains Triclosan, an anti bacterial agent that makes sure your teeth are protected. So even if you have poor brushing habits, Colgate Total Plax gives you added protection. It prevents cavities because it has sodium fluoride, a known cavity fighter. In addition, Colgate Total Plax gives you long-lasting protection against plaque and gingivitis – two oral conditions which cannot be fought with just toothbrushing alone.

Colgate Total Plax doesn't just help you take better care of your teeth from the inside. It also cares for your teeth from the outside. It has a cool minty taste and gives your breath a clean, fresh sensation which you can actually feel.

So the next time you need to freshen your breath, do your entire mouth a favor. Use Colgate Total Plax – The Complete Mouthrinse for Long-Lasting Protection.

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FITNESS ADVANTAGE URBAN CHALLENGE
MAY 1
LEVEL 3 COMMERCE AVE. ENTRANCE

CHAINS ON TERRAINS MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE
MAY 2
LEVEL 3 COMMERCE AVE. ENTRANCE

BADMINTON OPEN TOURNAMENT BY CHRIS SPORTS PLAZA
MAY 1 – 2
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Per DTI-NCR Permit# A2-235 Series of 2004

Newcomers take different routes to stardom

By Jocelyn Valle

JOINING a reality-based star search may be the "in" thing now. But, there are other routes that newcomers can take to enter the biz. Eighteen-year-old Bianca King, for instance, appeared in commercials for four years before going mainstream via Channel 7's teen series, "Click."

"I've been getting offers to join show biz since I was 16," the Filipino-Canadian beauty shares. "But, I didn't have confidence then. So, I joined theater groups in school."

Encouragement

She also got some encouragement from her boyfriend, young actor Patrick Garcia.

Being in rival networks doesn't pose problems for the young lovers, says Bianca. "I was offered a role in one of Channel 2's soap operas as the third party in a love story," she discloses.

KING, left, and Austria are paired in "Click."

Bianca's romantic interest in "Click" is played by another Filipino-Canadian commercial model, Warren Austria. He's the guy in a TV shampoo commercial who asks his mom, "*Ano'ng ulam?*" Warren joined Star Circle Quest, but pulled out when he got an offer to be a part of "Click's" new generation.

30 commercials

Angeli Gonzales is only 10 years old, but she's already done 30 commercials. However, she got her gig in Dolphy's sitcom, "Home Along Da Airport," after winning the "Munting Miss U" title of "Masayang Tanghali Bayan" in 2000.

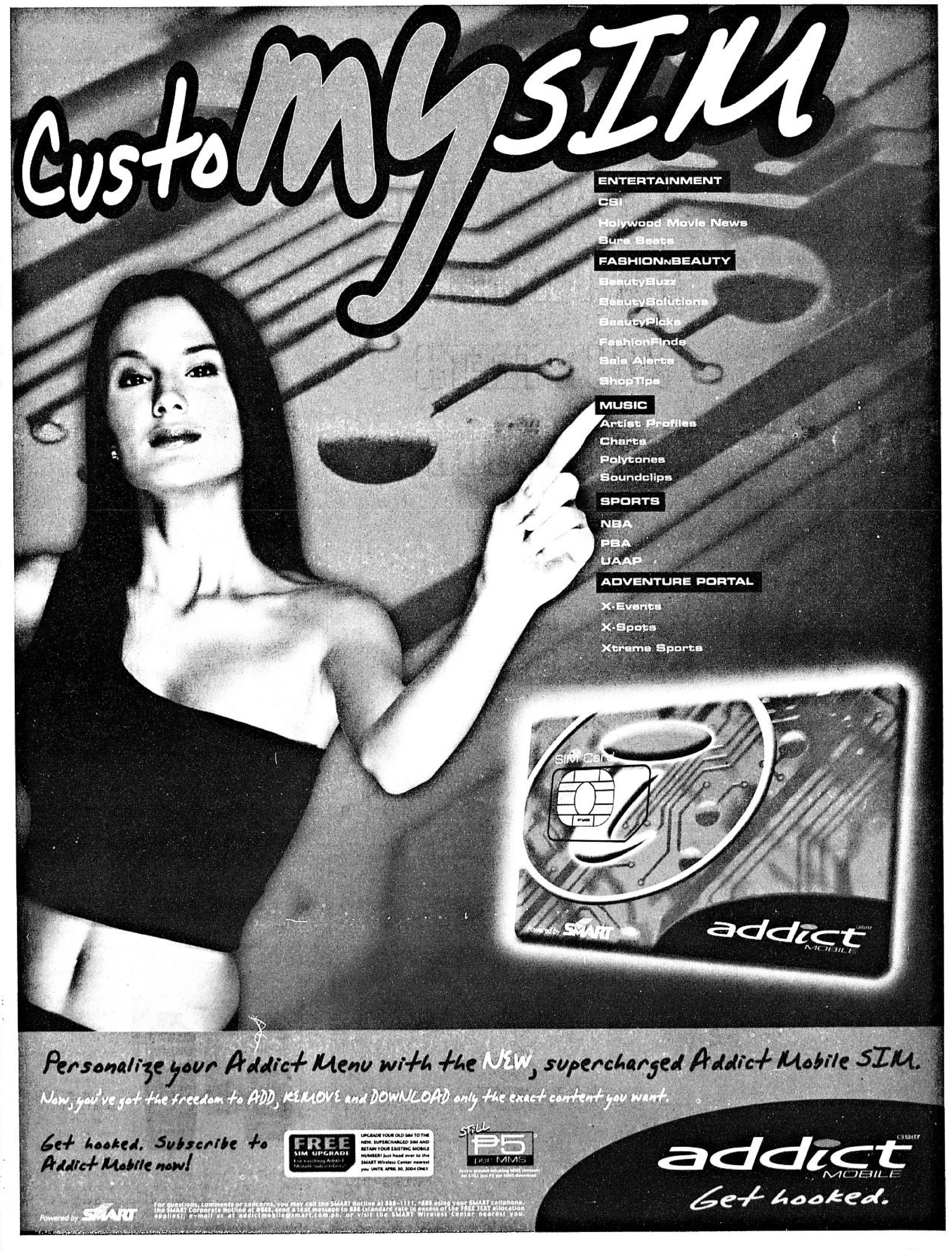
Kathryn Bernardo, eight, competed in the same pageant two years later, but didn't bring home the crown. Still, she got more offers to do commercials and small roles in ABS-CBN shows. Her biggest break so far was playing the little Bea Alonzo in the teleserye, "It Might Be You."

Dave Anquilo, 18, has always known that he's not the boy-next-door type.

Male version

So, when he found out that Viva was forming the male version of the Viva Hot Babes, he immediately signed up.

McMiel Dennison, 22, on the hand, would like to break into action movies like his idol, Ronnie Ricketts, after his stint with the Viva Hot Men.



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SATURDAY Special

Anne Hathaway glows in 'Ella Enchanted'

HATHAWAY. Sweetness and charm.

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES—Anne Hathaway glows with sweetness and charm in "Ella Enchanted" as a storybook heroine bound to do whatever anyone tells her to (thanks to an ill-conceived "gift" of obedience from her fairy godmother).

Without Hathaway, famous for playing another Cinderella story in "The Princess Diaries," this jokey reimagining of fairy tales would collapse under the weight of its attempts to parody them.

On the cusp of adulthood, Ella decides to escape the clutches of her disorder by fleeing into the wilderness of the kingdom to ask her estranged godmother to exchange the gift for another present.

Wicked stepmother

A wicked stepmother and two mean stepsisters have discovered her inexorable obedience and use it to get Ella to shoplift glass slippers.

Little kids will be enchanted by "Ella" and Hathaway, but grown-ups will groan as the movie tries too hard in nearly every area, except in its special effects. *AP*

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LAST BATCHES FOR SUMMER 2004

DATE	TIME	DAY	VENUE
May 3-28	8 am-12 nn	Mon-Fri	Rufino Pacific Tower, Cainta, ISO, Ortigas
May 3-28	1 pm-5 pm	Mon-Fri	ISO Ateneo, Ortigas, Cainta
May 5-31	8 am-12 nn	Mon-Fri	ISO
May 10-June 1	8 am-12 nn	Mon-Sat	ISO
May 11-June 1	8 am-5 pm	TTHS	ISO
May 12-June 4	8 am-12 nn	Mon-Fri	Montessori de Manila (BF Homes)

FIRST SEMESTER 2004-2005 REVIEW
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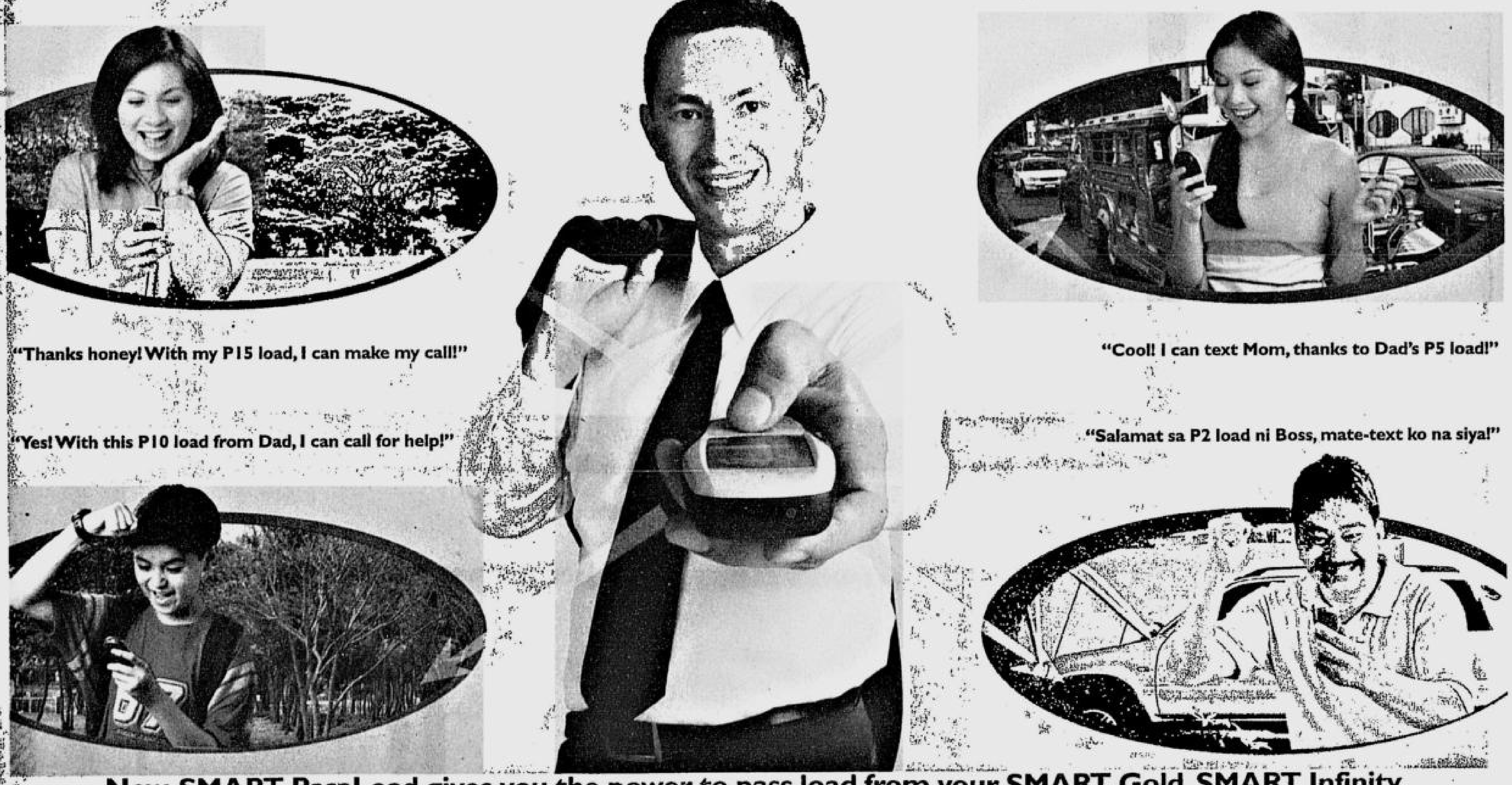
"Thanks honey! With my P15 load, I can make my call!"
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SuperICountdown
9 days 'til the Vote!

SATURDAY Super

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph
Contributing Editor Pam Pastor
Director Tin Yap

picture this

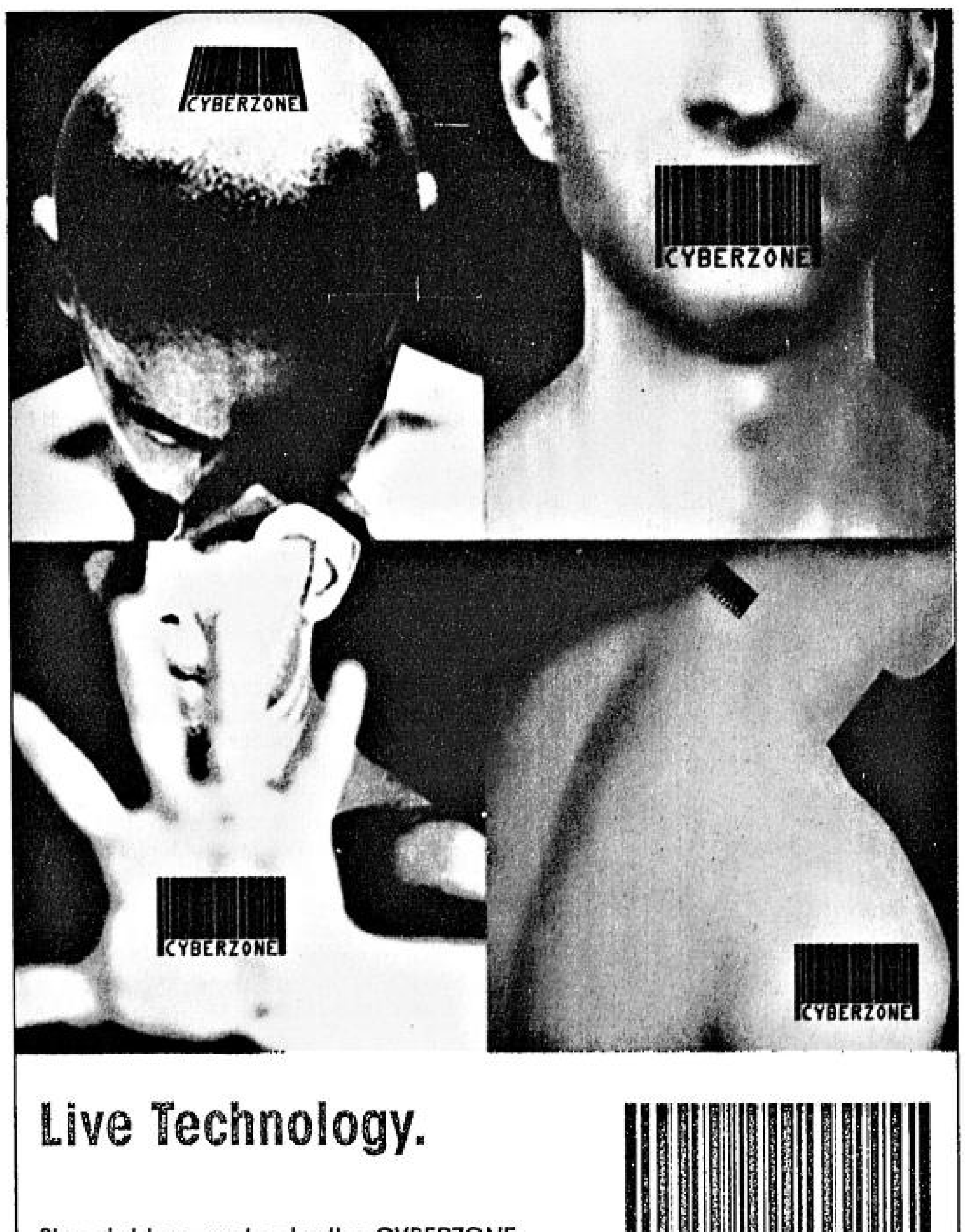
The future of the future page H1

Miami sound machine 2004 page I1

Sexy, naughty, Tata Young is here! page J1

Photography: TOM EPPERSON
Styling: JENNI EPPERSON
Makeup: TOTO BAGAMASBAD
Undergarments: TRIUMPH
Cover Star: TANIA PAULSEN
Location: STAR CITY

Super Creativity is the key that we use to unlock the new world. And while many call us crazy, we think we are the future.



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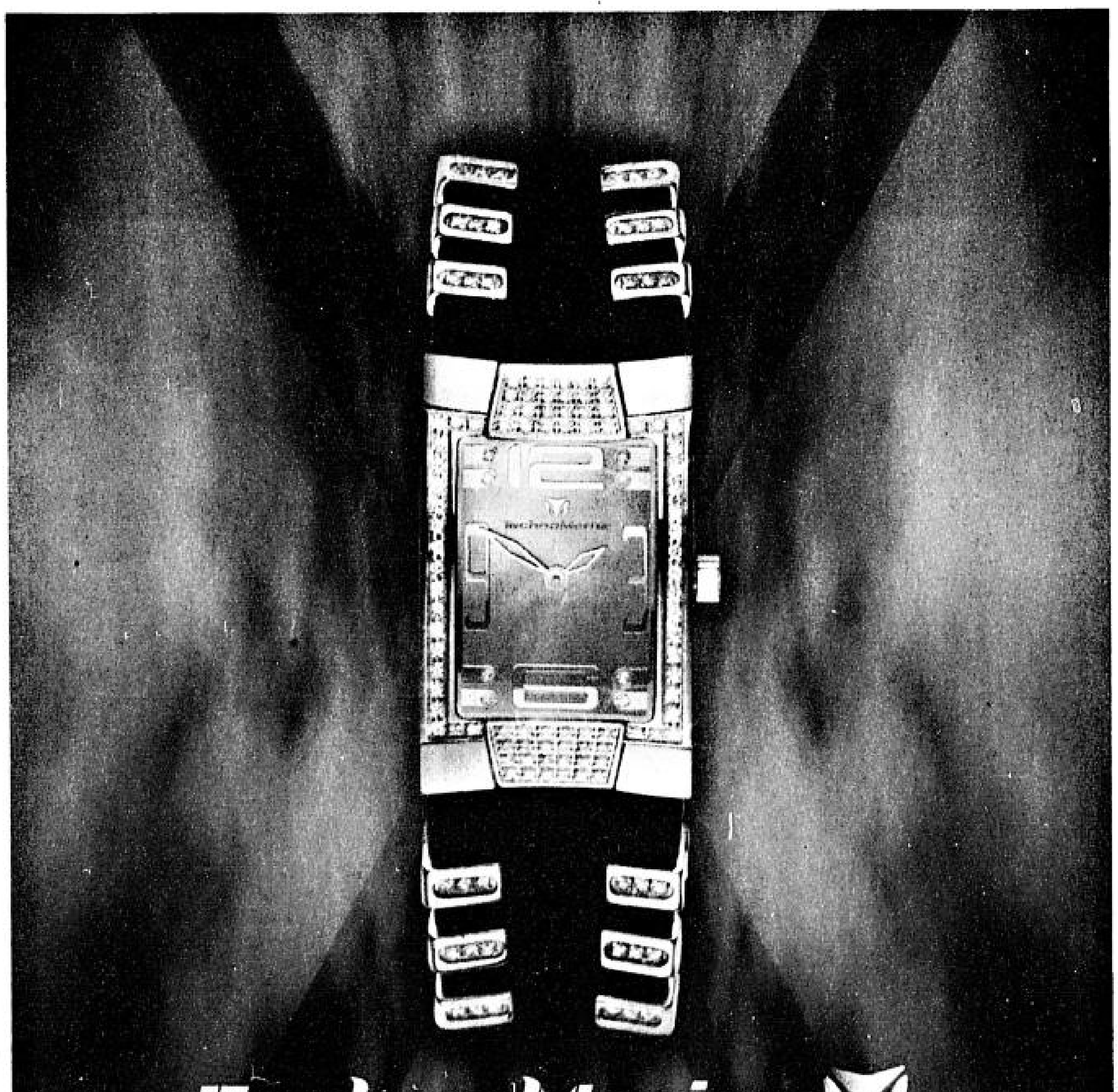

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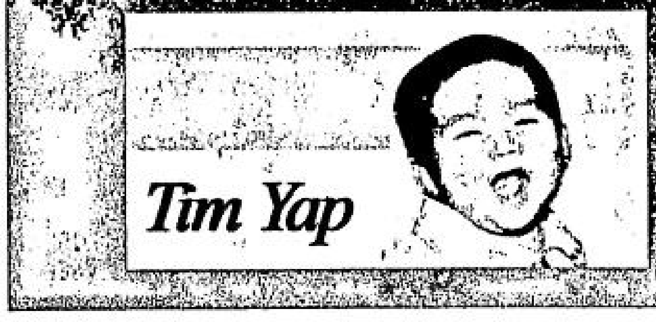
Tania-talizing



Tim Yap

"I'M GONNA be the Britney Spears of the Philippines!" says model and singer Tania Paulsen. We are having an intimate conversation, burning the midnight oil as we discuss her career plans, the future of the music industry, and the challenges that have come her way so far.

It is 1 a.m. and Tania is up and about. "I'm finishing some graphic design for a friend's album," she says as she tinkers with her desk top. "I want to be constantly creating new things. I wanna show people that there's more out there."

Her optimism is refreshing, to think that someone very close to her once said, "You can't sing, you can't perform. I challenge you to make it." (Simon Cowell, is that you?) But she is unfazed.

In an industry that requires hogging the limelight as much as one can, Tania remains prudent: "I am ambitious but I don't want to put people down. Even in the modeling field, I am more like the *ate* (big sister), not the bitchy model."

Speaking of modeling, here we see Tania in Triumph's original underwear as she plays Super! carnival queen. She embodies confidence without being arrogant, sexiness minus the sleaze (although I know many who fantasize about her), star quality without the show biz hypocrisy.

Dyna Records just signed her up. "They have the copyright for the CD 45 format, which is composed of two songs and a remix. It costs P88 and is a step towards combatting piracy." This also prevents record companies from putting only one good song and using random fillers for an album. The album is due for release in three months.

She looks at me intently. "I know I'm not a Lani nor a Regine. But I know I'll make it in my own way—maybe not in the same way that others did, but I'll get there."

The thing about fame is: If you want it, you have to work hard for it.

The thing I love most about what I do is: With singing, I love creating music and being in the recording studio. I love planning music videos. It's all very exciting for me. With modeling, I'm intrigued by the images you can create with photography and makeup. Anything that requires creativity, I love!

People might be surprised to know that I am: I have a strong motherly instinct.

The most important thing I have ever learnt is: Think before you speak.

I wish when I started off I'd been told that: You can never please everyone. Actually, I think I was told, I just never believed it 'til now.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was: I tend to block bad things from my mind.

And what this taught me was: I'm a fast learner. I only need to make a mistake once, so I'd like to think that I've learnt a lot about the things I have experienced so far in life.

The happiest moments of my life were:

1) Times as a teenager when my mom and I would hang out. We'd talk for hours or go out somewhere to shop or run errands. We'd always laugh. When we're together, we're the happiest.

The secret to happiness is: Having a positive outlook on life and believing in the Lord.

My best ever outfit consisted of: Low-rise jeans and a short white shirt with really cool converse sneakers (I had the most pick-ups wearing that outfit!)

My super Saturday night consists of: Depends on my mood. I love going to the movies then drinking hot chocolate and having in-depth conversations with friends. Then again, I can't resist shaking my booty on r&b nights at the clubs...

The soundtrack to my life would include: "Bad" by Michael Jackson (my theme song when I was 4), "World's Greatest" by R. Kelly, and "Try Again" by Aaliyah.

If I were invisible for a day I would: Sell my invisibility services to the highest bidder (as long as the act doesn't weigh on my conscience).

The thing that makes me most angry is: When people hurt each other.

If I was the most powerful person on earth I would: Eradicate poverty, make education compulsory in every country and try to prevent crimes against humanity.

My vote goes to: Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Noli de Castro (no explanation needed).

The best thing about family is: Unconditional love.

When I'm gone they'll probably say: They miss me.

If money were no object I would: Fly all of my friends in the Philippines over to Australia, throw a wild party and show them the beautiful places and unforgettable experiences. I would buy my entire family everything they've ever dreamed of having. I would buy the Philippines and hire experts to create a perfect garbage disposal system, invent a device that cleans air and water, create business opportunities and jobs in the provinces to avoid overcrowding in Manila, make schooling compulsory for all children under the age of 16, develop the railway system to accommodate more people, impose stricter laws on jeepneys and buses. And that's only for a start.

When I retire I would like to: Be financially stable, content with my accomplishments and travel the world for the second time around.

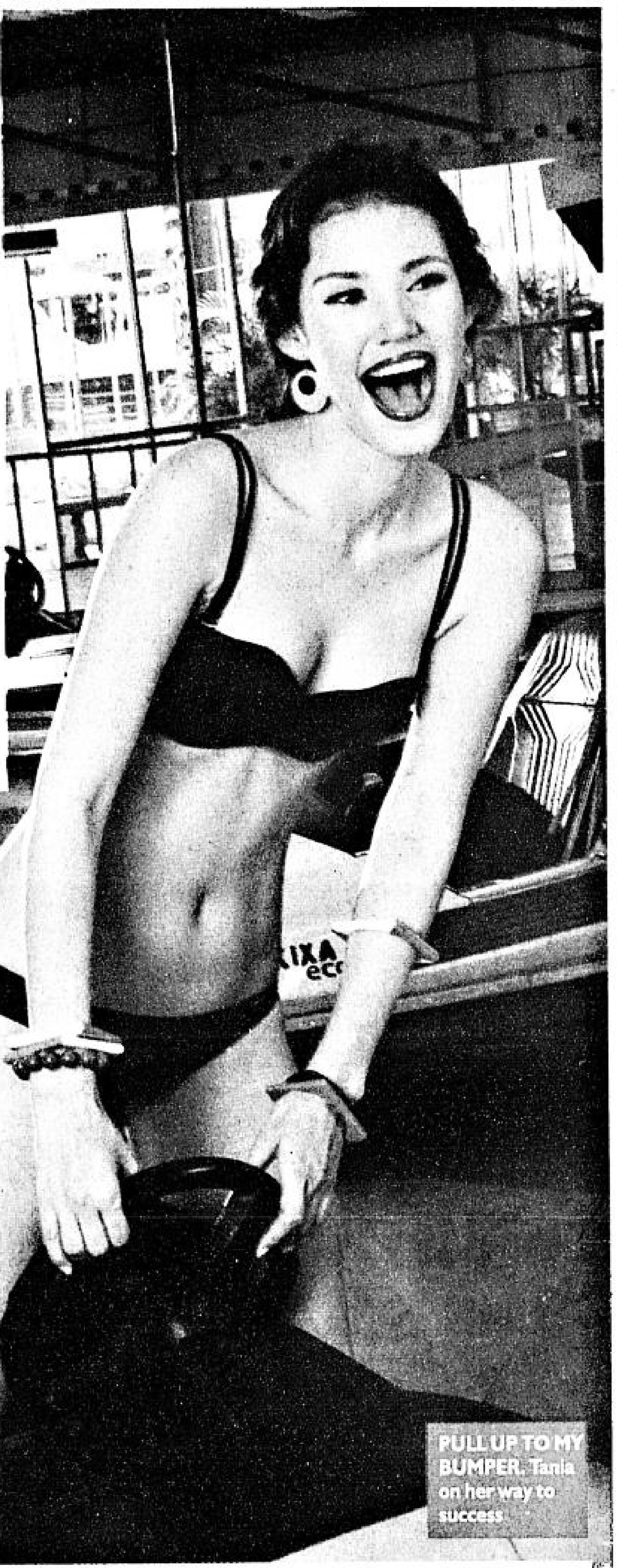
The world would be a much better place if: People did one another no wrong.

My hero is: My mom, because she is wise and strong.

The thing that makes my life worth living is: Family, friends, and talents that the Lord blessed me with.

My greatest hope for the future is: That the world will be filled with more love and concern. That my mom, dad and little brother will be happy in life.

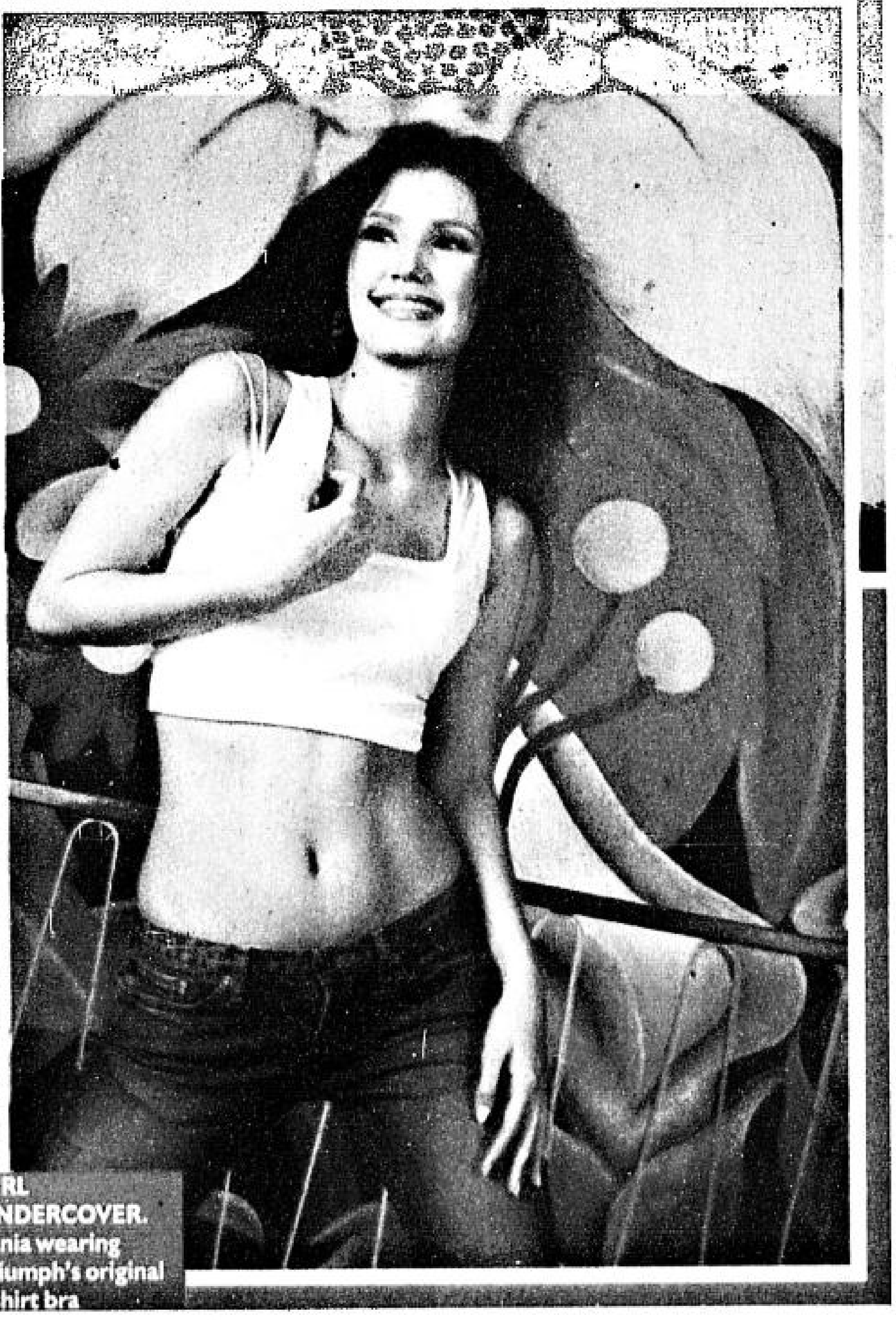
TANIA'S TRIUMPH. Stepping out in style



PULL UP TO MY BUMPER. Tania on her way to success

Ticket Booth

TICKET TO RIDE. Come one, come all—just come



GIRL UNDERCOVER. Tania wearing Triumph's original t shirt bra

PHOTOS BY TOM EPPERSON
STYLING BY JENNI EPPERSON
UNDERGARMENTS:
TRIUMPH ORIGINAL T SHIRT BRA AND BOTTOMS
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FASHION ASSISTANT: KAT CRUZ
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Shnappy shmoliday...

Lemon-aide

Giselle Segovia

SHMOLIDAY (sh-mall-i-dei): 1) A holiday gone wrong because of unfortunate circumstances 2) A holiday that falls on a weekend, rendering it useless to the working population. Ant. see holiday.

Labor Day Saturday is one of two heavy clouds that shroud the horizon of May 2004. The other nimbus puff is the forthcoming elections—don't worry though, I'm not getting into this last one. Up to a few days ago, we were hoping for a miracle that the "spirit" of Labor Day could be moved to the day before, allowing us a long weekend. Sorry, folks.

So here we are, stuck in good ol' Manila. Of course I can say this only for myself and the others who, by the same token, are wedged between pressing responsibilities that a regular weekend cannot worthily fix. (Sigh.)

As you read up on what's happening for the next few days, then, your precious Saturday is going minute by minute. Don't waste it. And guess what? Labor Day 2005 is a Sunday. Fantastic.

Saturday, May 1

Make sure you make your way to the NBC Tent tonight for a rare event organized by party innovator Bigfish. The first-ever jamboree of sorts will gather the best local DJs in "Big Love," a tribute to the good life through dance and music. Heed Jon Naval, Marc Naval, Manolet Dario, David Jacob and TC as they beckon the dancer within you, record after record. Door charge is P300 before midnight and P400 after 12. Bring a flyer and you get a P100 discount. Happy hour is 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. At Fort Bonifacio Global City. For details, log on to www.bigfishmanila.com.

Sunday, May 2

The party goes on. Last night's vibe doesn't have to end because the bash continues at Vbar with "After Hours." The sound of Nicky Jurado's music will swirl about within the walls of Vbar starting at 5 in the morning. Yep, that's right, 5 a.m. people! Later on, if you fail to catch sleep, see the last day of Pol Mesina Jr.'s exhibit. "Durungawan" features the artist's works on windows with scenery at the Renaissance Gallery, 4/L SM Megamall A. While you're already there, might as well check out The Art Walk, Galleria Duemila for the last viewing day of Virgilio Aviado's "Drawings"—compositions on charcoal and pen, and ink on paper catalogues.

Music lovers would enjoy Viagem, a night of Brazilian bossa, jazz and soul with singer Nyko Maca from 5 p.m. onwards at Coco Cabana in Kalayaan St. Makati. Come in Brazilian attire. This event is sponsored by Volvo, Rockwell Power Plant and Bodyworx Gym. For inquiries, contact 09178434983.

Monday, May 3

Anita Magsaysay-Ho may be advancing in years, but what she lacks in youth she certainly makes up for with mastery in her art. See for yourself; her recent works are on display at the Crucible Gallery, SM Megamall.

Tuesday, May 4

If you pass by Katipunan Avenue, drop by Ateneo de Manila's art gallery where "Experiencing Grace" is on exhibit until mid-May. The gallery is at the ground floor of Rizal Library. For details, call 426-6488 or 426-6001 loc. 4160.

Wednesday, May 5

The "Beach Bomb" Next Wednesday Party Series is ongoing as Positive Noise Productions and DJ Kimozave bring down the newly renovated Cluvb 5 with their hiphop and r&b dance hall extravaganza. Ladies can come in and shake their booties for free! Cluvb 5 is at Mile long Compound, Amorsolo St. Makati City.

Wednesday-Friday, May 5 to May 9

"The Power Show" of Power 108 is a five-day affair showcasing the following events (inhale deeply, exhale!): a car show, a dog show, live hip-hop performances, a DJ showdown, an MC Battle Contest, the Power Show Girl contest, Bikini Carwash, and the unveiling of the new Power 108 logo. Hosts for this spectacular bash are Francis M., HTown Power 108 DJs and Sarah Meier. For those interested in joining the car or dog show, call 627-0233 or (0917) 795-1176. The celebration takes place at the Premiere Events Center, Mile Long Compound, Amorsolo St. Makati City.

The Word for the Bored:

"I'd make a terrible agent. My clients would never work, and I'd ask for too much money."—Tobey Maguire, after waiting 45 minutes for the valet in a Los Angeles downpour following the Unforgettable Evening cancer-research benefit.

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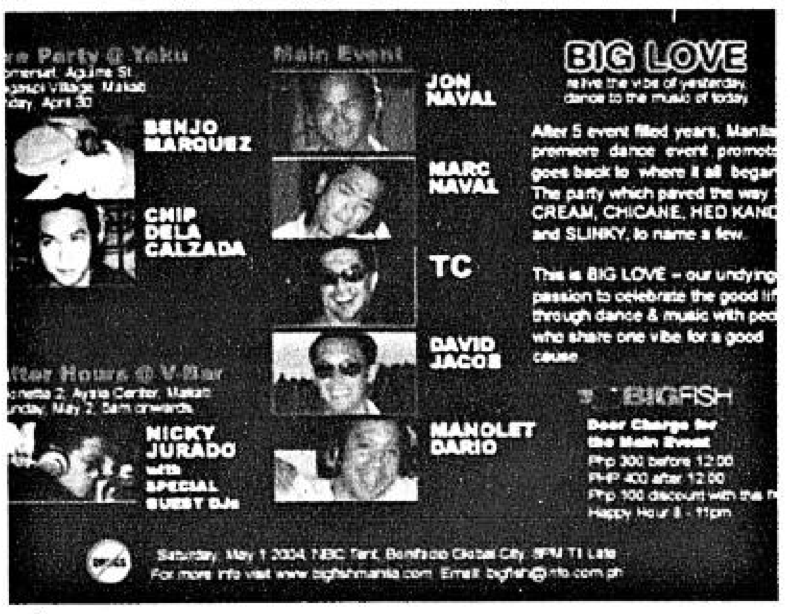
Saturday, May 1 2004. NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City. 8PM Til Late



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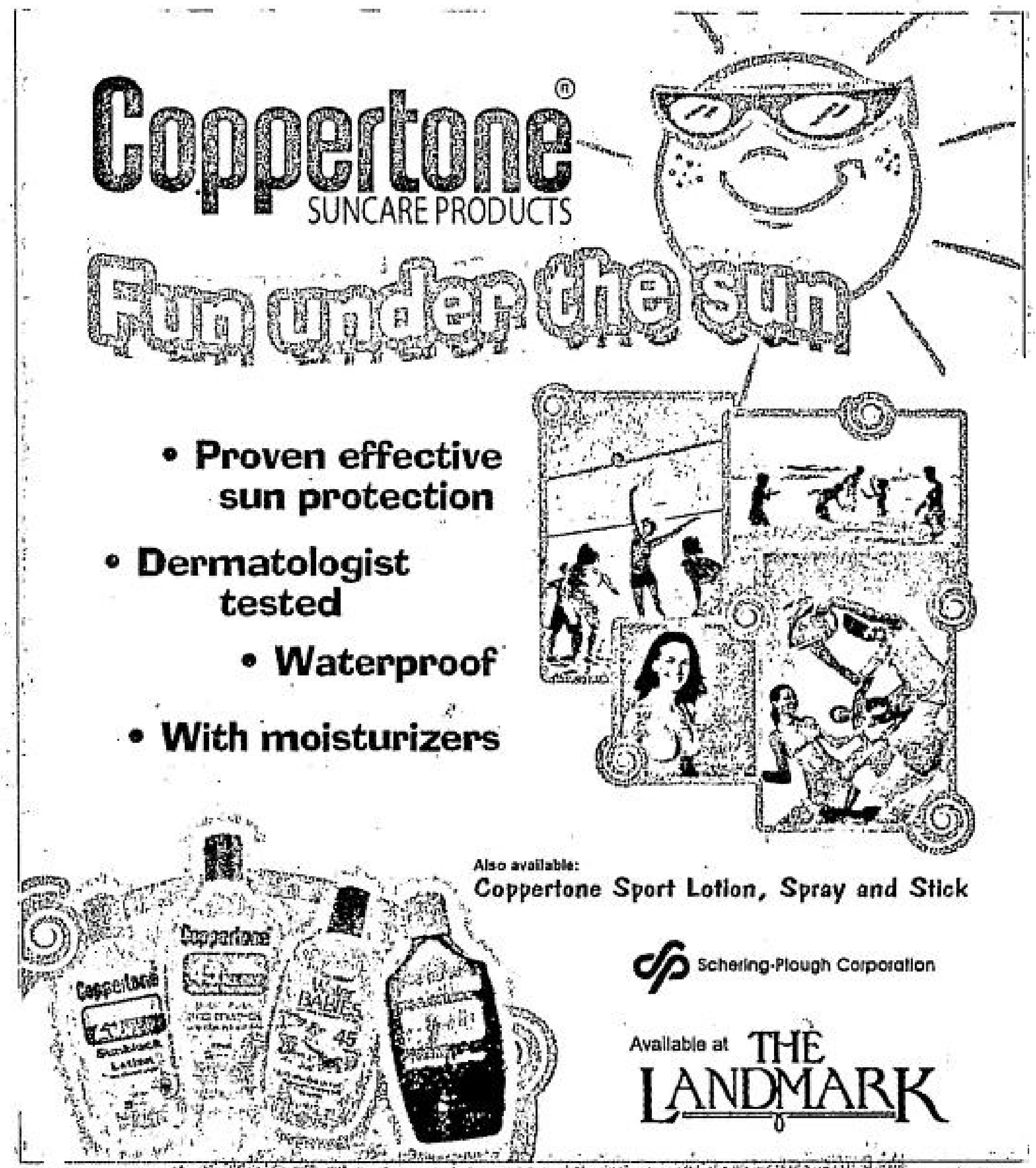
For more info visit www.bigfishmanila.com Email: bigfish@info.com.ph

SLINKY QUOTES: Ken Ishii "One of the best parties I ever played." Lenny "One of my top three gigs of all time if not the best." Here with DJ Tuck Cheah

AT THE ADDICT PARTY IN BORACAY. Gerry Santos who was responsible for the fab décor for Slinky, here with Addict dude Derek Ramsey and Jackie Forster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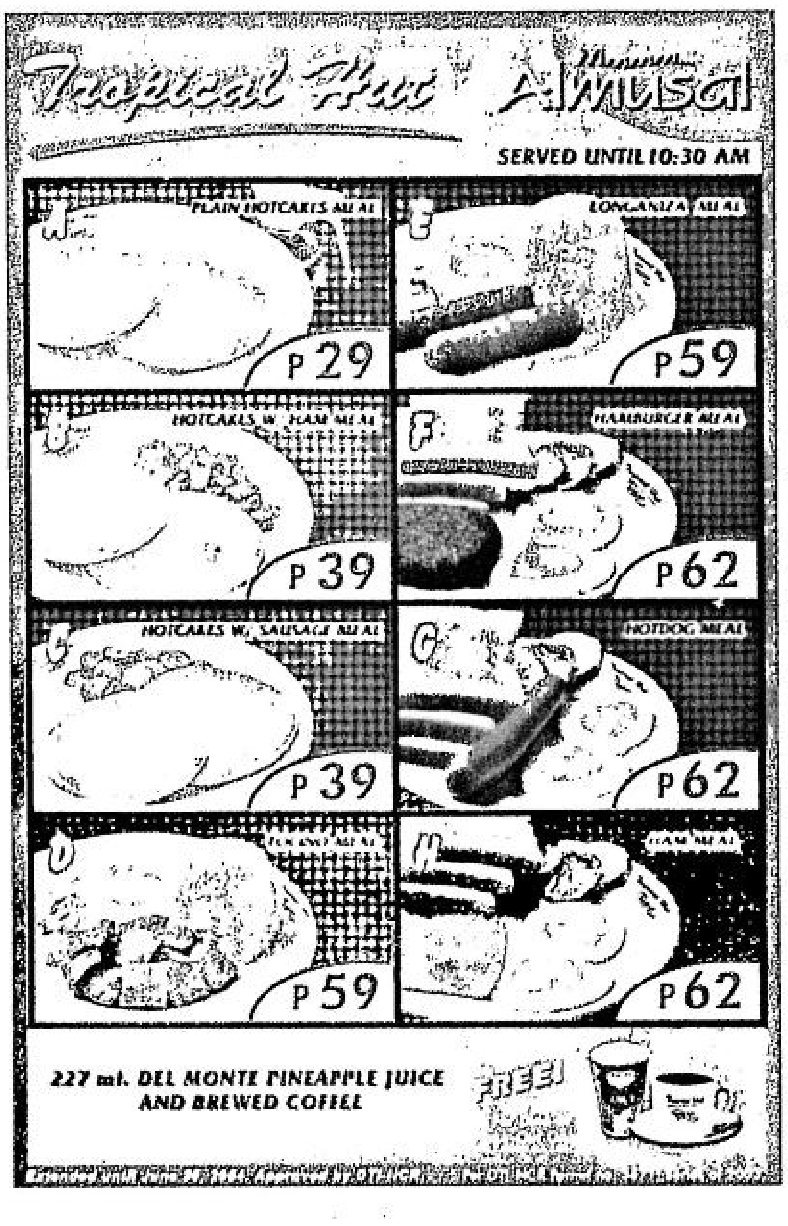
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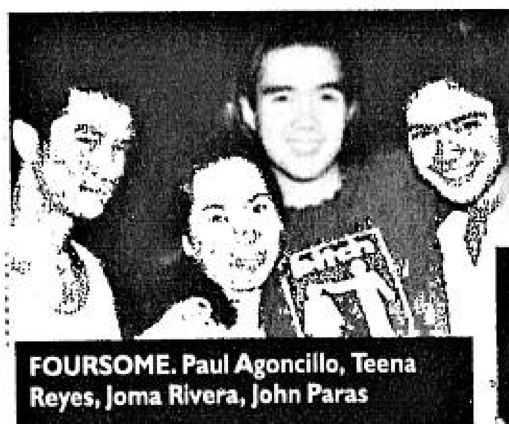
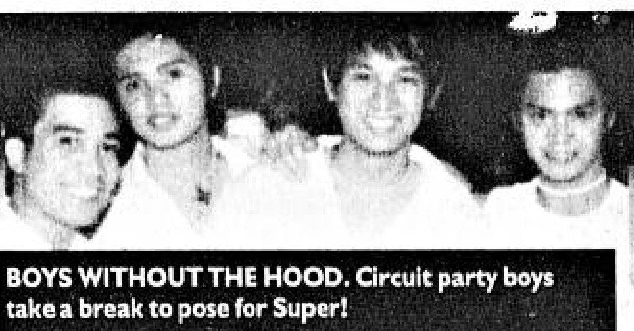
Flesh and the word



FOURSOME. Paul Agoncillo, Teena Reyes, Joma Rivera, John Paras

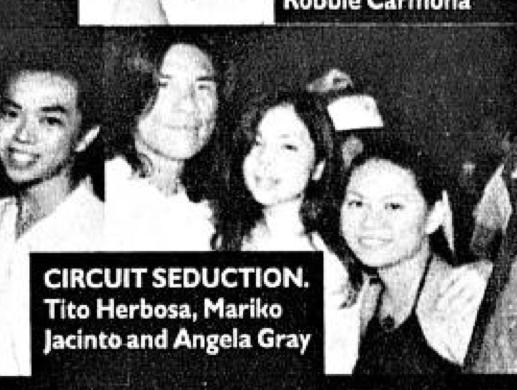


BOYS WITHOUT THE HOOD. Circuit party boys take a break to pose for Super!

FASHION CIRCUIT. Jay Lozada and Robbie Carmona

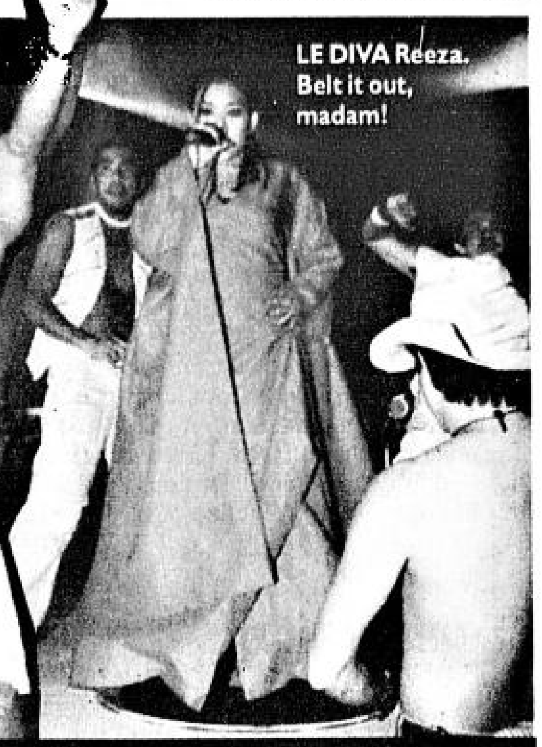
H SALON. Henry Lim (far right) with fun, fun party mates

F PARTY boys

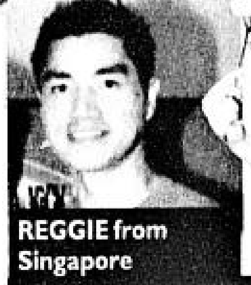


CIRCUIT SEDUCTION. Tito Herbosa, Mariko Jacinto and Angela Gray

SUPERSTAR gogoboy Mike!

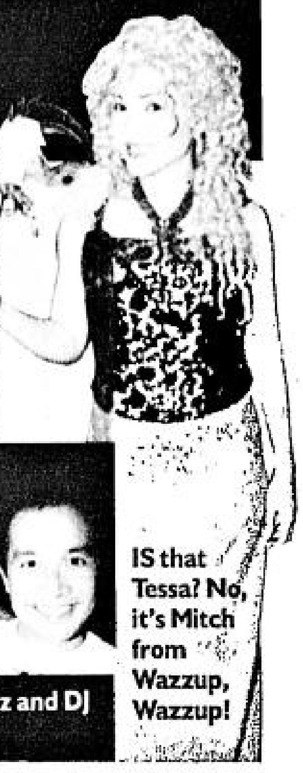


LE DIVA Reeza. Belt it out, madam!



REGGIE from Singapore

F TWO. Paulo Gomez and DJ Montano



IS that Tessa? No, it's Mitch from Wazzup, Wazzup!

Text by Jay Santos
Photos by Pempol Marquez

"TAKE off your shirts!" the diva wailed from the stage.

But apart from the yummy go-go boys and the super energized flagger who danced bare-chested in true circuit boy fashion, hardly anyone flashed flesh during last Saturday's Flesh Circuit Party at Greenbelt's Expo Exchange. Some chunky troll in a tattered straw cowboy hat dared to take his top off. I laughed my lungs out when people started screaming, "Put it back on!" But the rest of the guys who were too cowardly to let their hair down and flaunt a tongue-in-cheek attitude disappointed me.

"Circuit party" was a misnomer for the one-night event. Circuit parties, born in the States, are usually a succession of gay-themed, sometimes exclusively gay, parties that last several nights and days. Still, "Flesh" was a giant leap forward for gay men in Manila. We can finally, "Ok, we're ready for events of this magnitude. It's time we partied like our other gay brothers elsewhere in Asia, the United States, and Europe." To me, this alone made the party a resounding triumph and a thumbs-up to gay Pinoy pride. Plus, almost 2000 gay men trooped to the venue to witness all the drama on the dance floor that night. Who could have known there was that many party-hungry fags in these parts?

It was the first of its kind in the Philippine capital, thanks to Kokun Productions whose team includes Henry Lim, Raj Autention, Josh Dieron, and Ramon Balsamo. Congratulations to you, boys!

Minus points

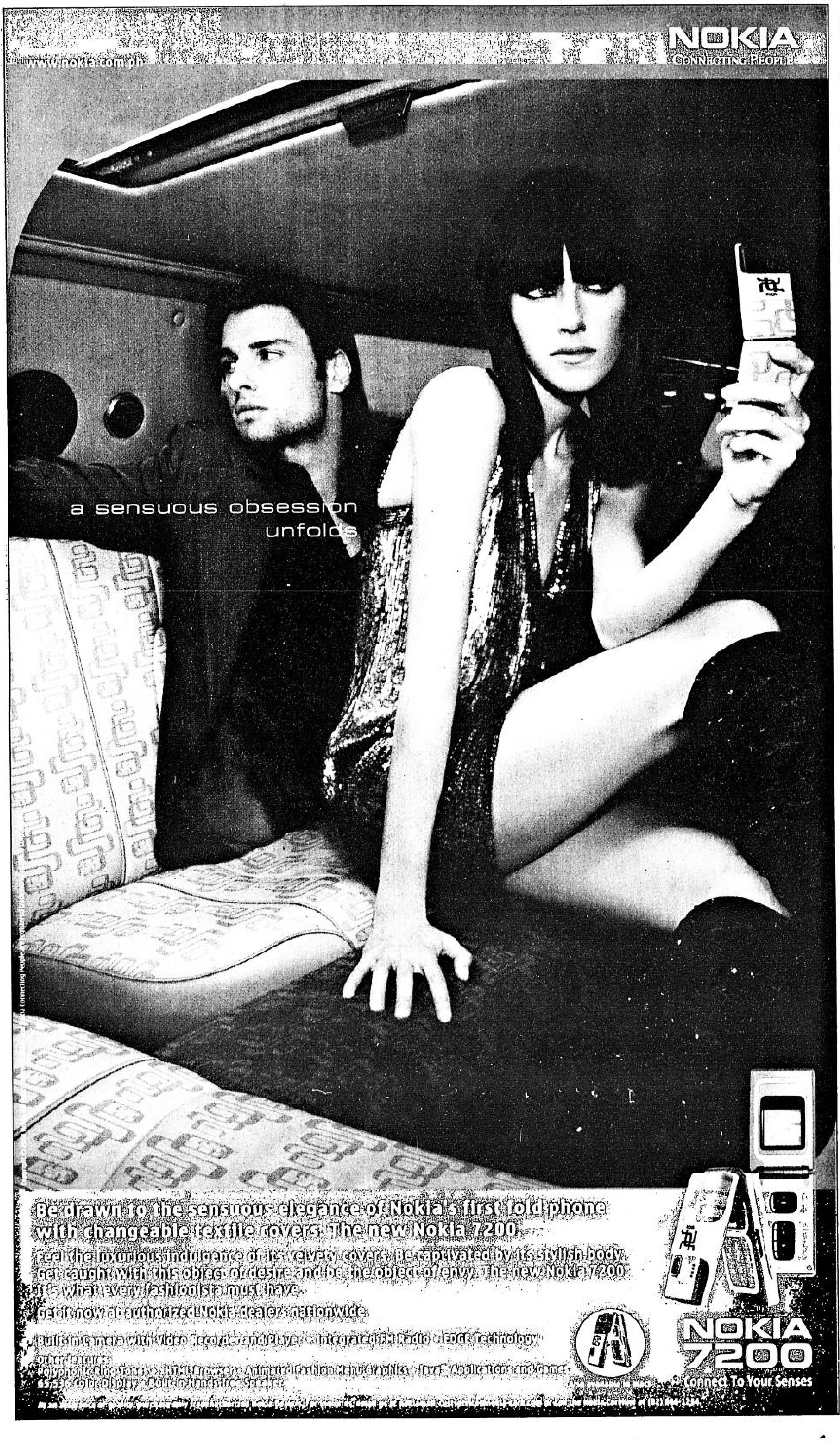
The party could've been better, though. I think the Kokun team was a little overzealous, and ended up putting too many elements in the party, making it just over the top. The lights were too bright—so bright, it might have inhibited the guys from taking off their shirts. The go-go boys were placed on 10-foot tall pedestals, making it hard for people to ogle them. Then they had live percussionists who were supposed to rhythmically drum along with the dance beats. But they couldn't find the beats, and the crowd got a little confused trying to dance to two bass lines.

Finally, DJ Kevin Ruiz made it way too difficult to dance because he laid it on thick with deep, dark house tracks. I don't mean to be a bitch. I like Kevin's music. But I think a big dance hall party should go with progressive house and uplifting trance tracks. Since clubbing is relatively new to most gay men in Manila, vocal house and not tribal sets would be the way to get them to the dance floor.

I think we can soon expect more big gay-themed parties from Kokun soon. For this I'm glad, because it gives gay Filipino men like me a chance to dance in a big gay rave and not have to go to Singapore, Hong Kong or Bangkok just to attend one.

Next up, it's Bed's One Year Anniversary Party and The 3rd Annual White Party, both happening in June in Malate, the epicenter of everything queer and campy. Bed, that ubiquitous gay club that started it all, will give a big thank you to all its loyal gay party meisters with an exclusive VIP-only anniversary bash on June 12.

And then there's The White Party, which gets bigger and wilder every year. This one happens on June 26. The White Party Consortium, the guys who tirelessly put together Manila's only large-scale outdoor street party every year, will have a few tricks up their sleeves this year, to be sure. So gay men (and women) everywhere, block off this date on your calendars. We might try to make it one "real" circuit party. Meaning, try to block off June 25 and 27 as well! Cheers!



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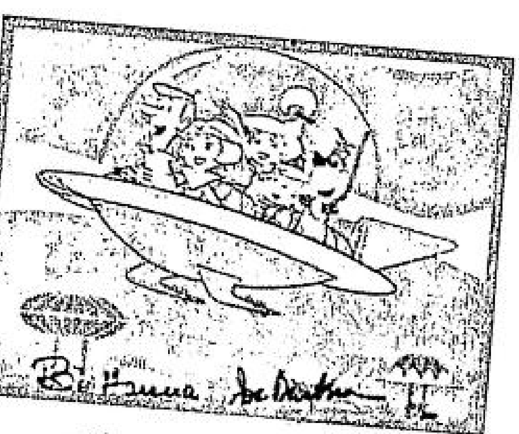
ME, MYSELVES, AND I. One of Anthony Goicolea's slick Doppelganger photomontages.

The future of the future

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

HOPING to Xerox the success of "The Flintstones," William Hanna and Joseph Barbera turned their winning formula on its head and gave kids of the 1960s an interesting counterpoint to the well-loved stone-age clan. A quirky but nonetheless typical family, the Jetsons lived in Skypad Apartments in the year 3000 AD. Patriarch George Jetson clocked in three hours of work everyday at Spacely Space Age Sprockets. Decked in cartoon Courrèges, Mom Jane managed all domestic matters. Teen daughter Judy, younger son Elroy, their dog Astro, and Rosie the robot maid completed the space age household.



THEY'RE COSMIC. Futuristic family fun with "The Jetsons."

Though it lasted only one season on ABC's evening lineup in 1962, "The Jetsons" became one of the most successful animated series in syndication, such that Hanna-Barbera produced 51 brand new episodes in the '80s. As a toddler learning his phonics during that pre-Simpsons era, I imagined riding a pneumatic tube to school just like Elroy, or flying around in an atomic-powered bubble car while a robot housekeeper made sure all my Legos and other junk were tucked away from sight. (Richie Rich's maid Irona was less frumpy than Rosie, but I digress.)

With such an upbeat picture of life in outer space, the retro-futuristic "The Jetsons" was a stark contrast to the grotesque aliens and morbid existential concerns of other space-themed shows of the time. This classic presented a new world of man-made conveniences that reflected and took inspiration, I assume, from mid-century design heavyweights like Charles and Ray Eames, Isamu Noguchi, and Le Corbusier. By and large, "The Jetsons" effortlessly depicted how people in the '60s imagined the future-conveyor belts, Mylar suits, and android domestics. Those, however, were their ideas. Forty-odd years down the line, do we still share the same fantasies? Or have we finally upgraded our theories about the cultural mirage we call the future?

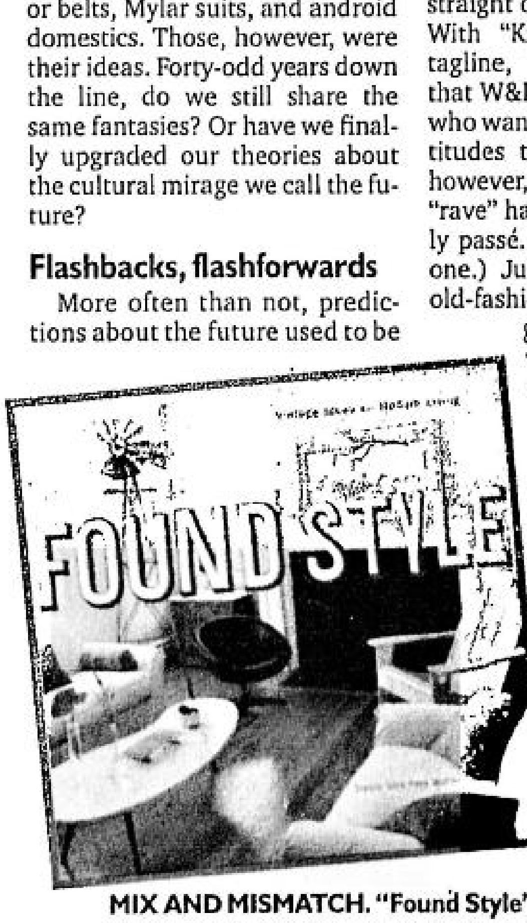
Flashbacks, flashforwards

More often than not, predictions about the future used to be bleak and quite dystopic. Ridley Scott's 1982 opus "Blade Runner" revealed Los Angeles in ruins in 2019. As the film's director, Scott made buildings appear layered, as if they had been built upon repeatedly, since he thought that would be more practical than tearing them down and putting up new ones. Now, 15 years before "Blade Runner's" fictional milieu, L.A. seems to be hedging Scott's calculation. The city's structural design is being dubbed as one borne out of amnesia. "The impermanence of its architecture not only destroys the city's history, but also serves to erase the collective memory," Philippe Garnier writes in Vogue Hommes International Spring/Summer 2004. At least for now, this transitory character of Los Angeles confirms that tomorrow's landscape may not look so miserable.

Sometimes, hedonism influences our notions of what is forthcoming. In the late '90s, Walter Van Beirendonck and his label W&LT, Wild & Lethal Trash, derived inspiration from the carnival atmosphere of raves and designed clubwear that looked straight out of a computer game. With "Kiss the future" as his tagline, Van Beirendonck said that W&LT was for young people who wanted to articulate their attitudes through fashion. Lately, however, I noticed how the word "rave" has become embarrassingly passé. (Imagine being seen at one.) Judging by our return to old-fashioned sportswear, I'm guessing the stuff that will make it to the future will be a touch less fantastic and a bit more honest.

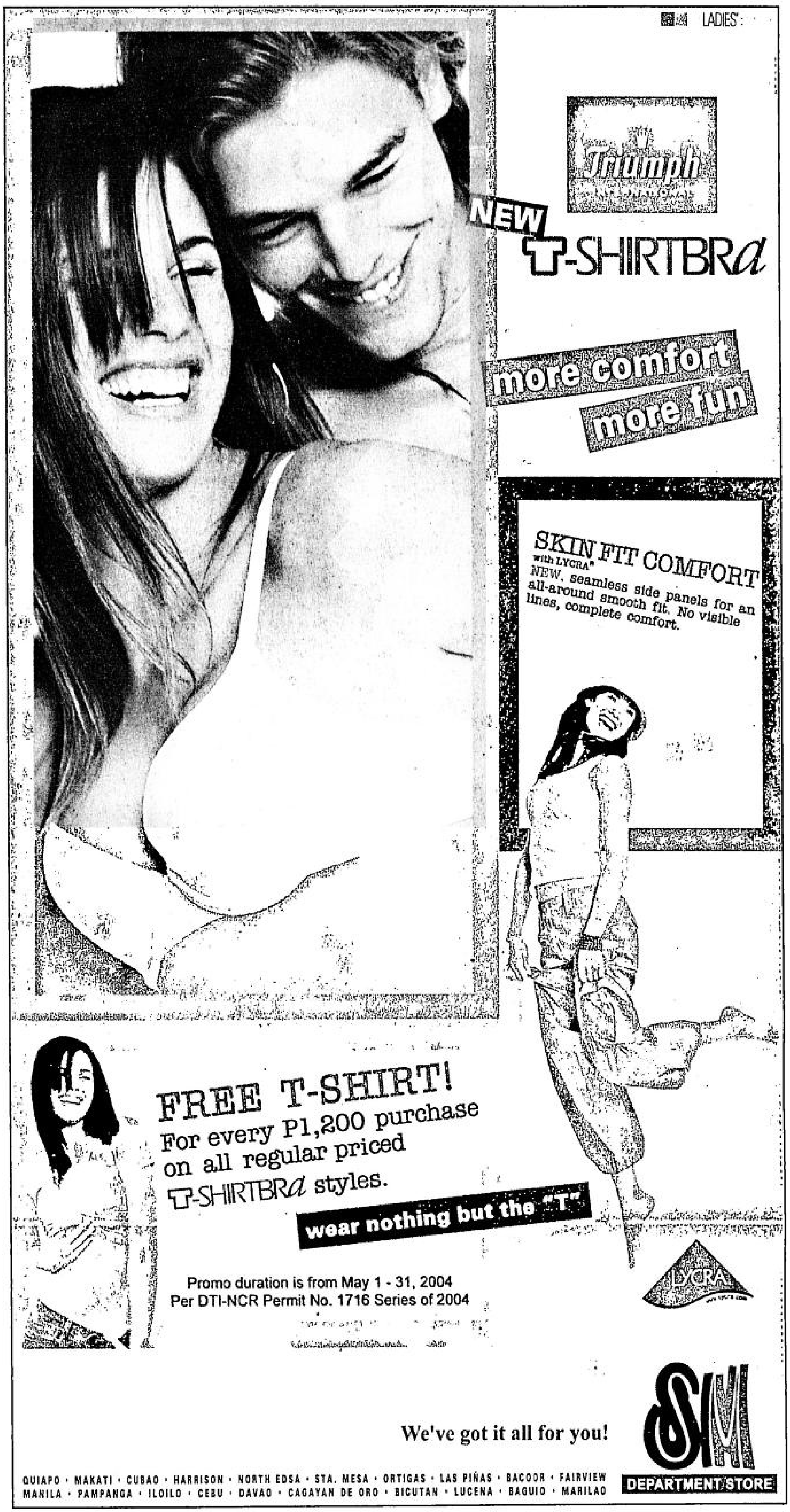
Lastly, prophecies can also take the form of hi-tech dance music. In the '70s, the German group Kraftwerk created minimalist music on synthesizers, drum machines and tape recorders. Influenced by the pre-WW2 Bauhaus school of German impressionism, Kraftwerk recorded "Auto-

THE FUTURE/ H2



MIX AND MISMATCH. "Found Style" says the future will be about the hunt.

"The future is a process, not a theme park." Bruce Sterling, Tomorrow Now: Envisioning the Next Fifty Years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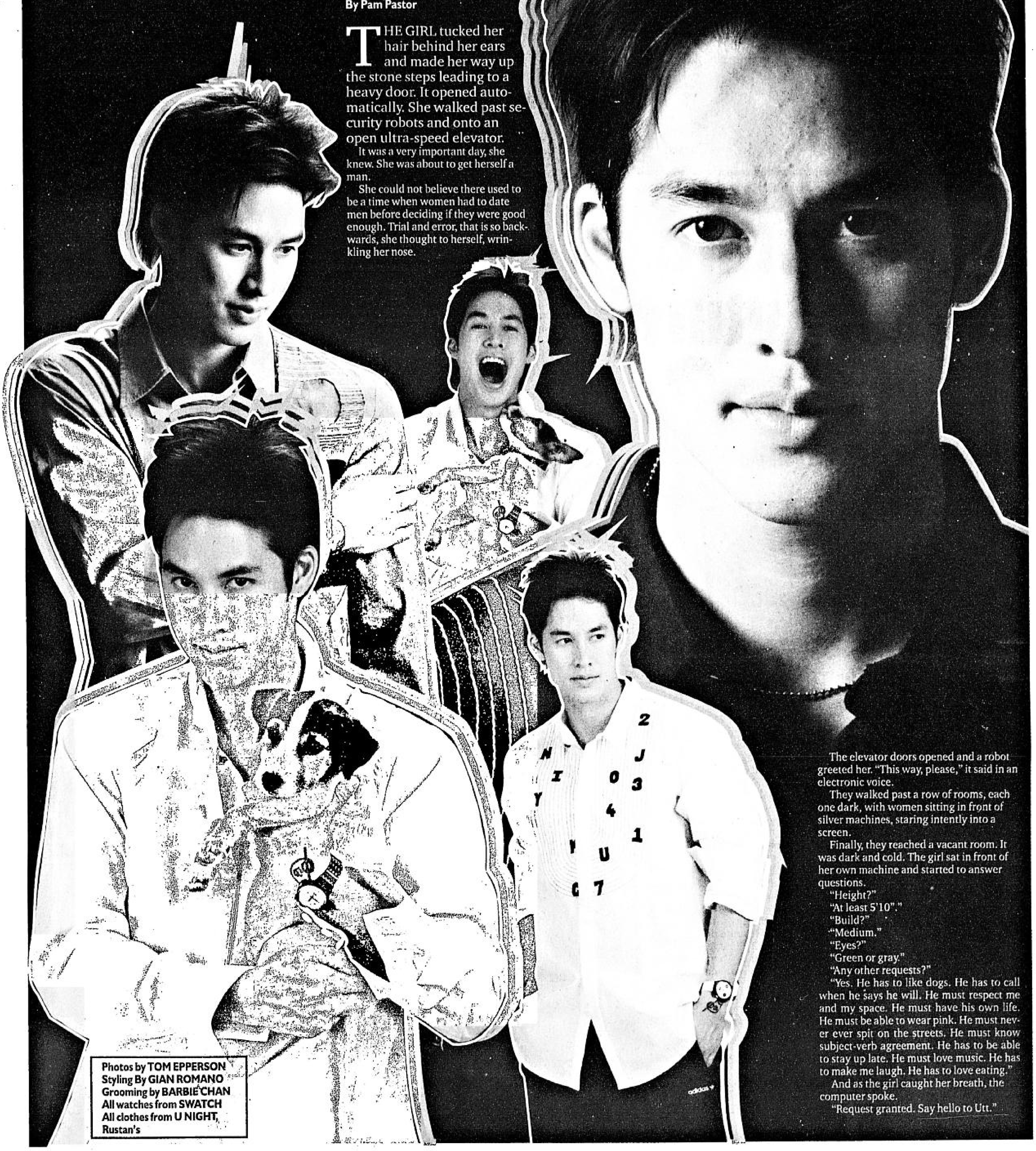
Utt-rageous

By Pam Pastor

THE GIRL tucked her hair behind her ears and made her way up the stone steps leading to a heavy door. It opened automatically. She walked past security robots and onto an open ultra-speed elevator.

It was a very important day, she knew. She was about to get herself a man.

She could not believe there used to be a time when women had to date men before deciding if they were good enough. Trial and error, that is so backwards, she thought to herself, wrinkling her nose.



The elevator doors opened and a robot greeted her. "This way, please," it said in an electronic voice.

They walked past a row of rooms, each one dark, with women sitting in front of silver machines, staring intently into a screen.

Finally, they reached a vacant room. It was dark and cold. The girl sat in front of her own machine and started to answer questions.

"Height?"

"At least 5'10"."

"Build?"

"Medium."

"Eyes?"

"Green or gray."

"Any other requests?"

"Yes. He has to like dogs. He has to call when he says he will. He must respect me and my space. He must have his own life. He must be able to wear pink. He must never ever spit on the streets. He must know subject-verb agreement. He has to be able to stay up late. He must love music. He has to make me laugh. He has to love eating."

And as the girl caught her breath, the computer spoke.

"Request granted. Say hello to Utt."

Photos by TOM EPPERSON
Styling By GIAN ROMANO
Grooming by BARBIE CHAN
All watches from SWATCH
All clothes from U NIGHT, Rustan's

The future of the future

From page H1

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Evolution, creativity, soul

Wave after wave of futuristic philosophies have crashed against time and failed because they were science-fictionalized and overlooked three fundamental qualities. First of all, most futurists focus too much on the exterior. They don't realize that the future originates from within and is thus all about discoveries, not predictions. With this in mind, I drooled like a Pavlovian dog while thumbing through, of all things, a decorating book in a Bangkok bookstore. "Found Style: Vintage Ideas for Modern Living" gives tips on how to blend the unexpected with the familiar. Despite concentrating on home improvement, the book's visual cues involve a gradual evolution of taste that can be applied to all aspects of a forward-looking lifestyle. "Don't fret," reassure authors David and Amy Butler, "because it won't happen overnight."

Second, most ham-fisted fortunetellers miss out on the artistic aspect of the future. Creativity can spawn good design, which in turn can drive change. Nkhensani Manganyi, designer of hot South African label Stoned Cherrie, puts images of apartheid-era heroes and heroines onto contemporary T-shirts and cutaway tops. As a nation negotiating a new identity, South Africa is experiencing a renaissance of sorts with Manganyi at the forefront of an emerging design hotbed. On the other side of the lens, twentysomething Cuban-American Anthony Goicolea has set the photography world on fire with his savagely imaginative photomontages. The Williamsburg, Brooklyn native dresses and poses as an early adolescent and appears as Doppelgangers of himself. Whether it's of bare-knuckles fighting or receiving Holy Communion, the stylized photos hint at a time of transgression and we, as voyeurs, are impelled to come up with our own narratives. Both artists demonstrate that creativity is a life-affirming coping mechanism that guarantees one's place in the future. Lazaro Hernandez, 23 years old and one-half of NYC design duo Proenza Schouler, reiterated the imminent rule of meritocracy in tomorrow's society when he said, "You have to make the space for yourself."

Lastly, bold speculations about life in the future often skip the most important characteristic: soul. One way to transcend planned obsolescence is by anchoring one's self outside the corporate machinery. In response to the tired formulas of rap and the brainless nature of pop, I took on the challenge enthusiastically and found music that's bound to exceed the shelf life of this month's Wallpaper magazine. The low-fi, handcrafted vibe of such tracks as India's "Prohibido," Katie Melua's "Crawling Up A Hill," and Jeremy Kay's "Have It All" is nothing like the slick John Mayer radio dung we've been force-fed recently. Talking about the fate of singles, Alexander Kapranos of the Scottish band Franz Ferdinand argues, "A good song should exist in its own right and shouldn't be taken within the context of an album."

Maybe tomorrow

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Stumbling upon the image of planet Earth as one big homogenized Eurasian mall, I think tomorrow's citizens will miss the authenticity of pre-meltdown civilizations and put a higher premium on uni-racial models and pure cuisine. In-the-know scenesters will finally move away from luxury megabrands, as like Starbucks, these will be found on every street corner from Samar to Samarkand. What I see flourishing are the hype-free mom-and-pop designers, assuming that people won't take DIY further and actually make their own stuff. (Everyone would know exactly what he or she wants, anyway.) As the center of gravity shifts beyond the control of reality programming and focus-group mentality, television networks will churn out fantasy-based productions once more. Picture that.

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(Seen the future? Hit me at worldclassjackass@yahoo.ca)

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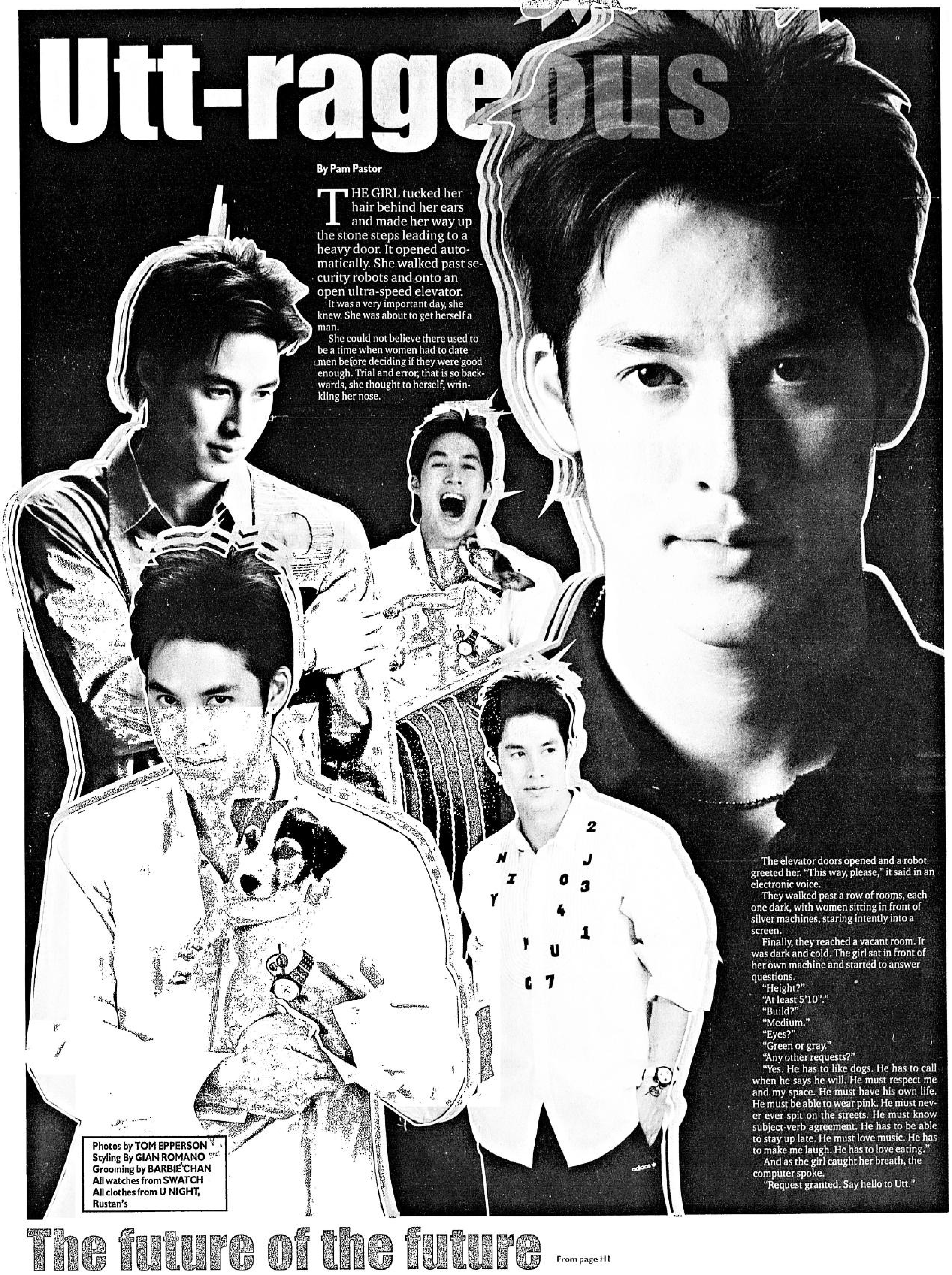

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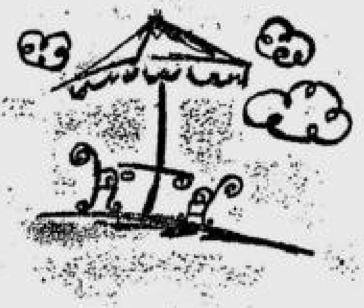

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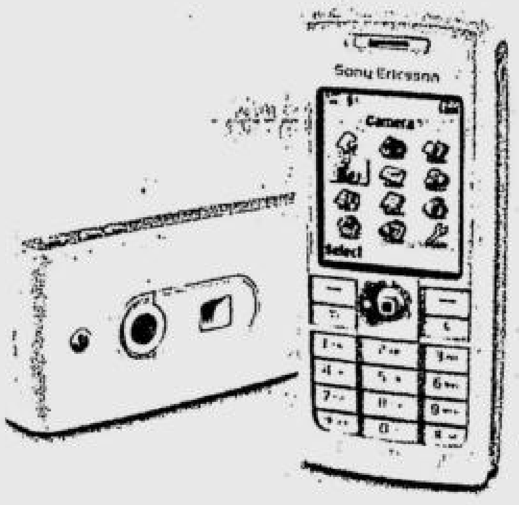

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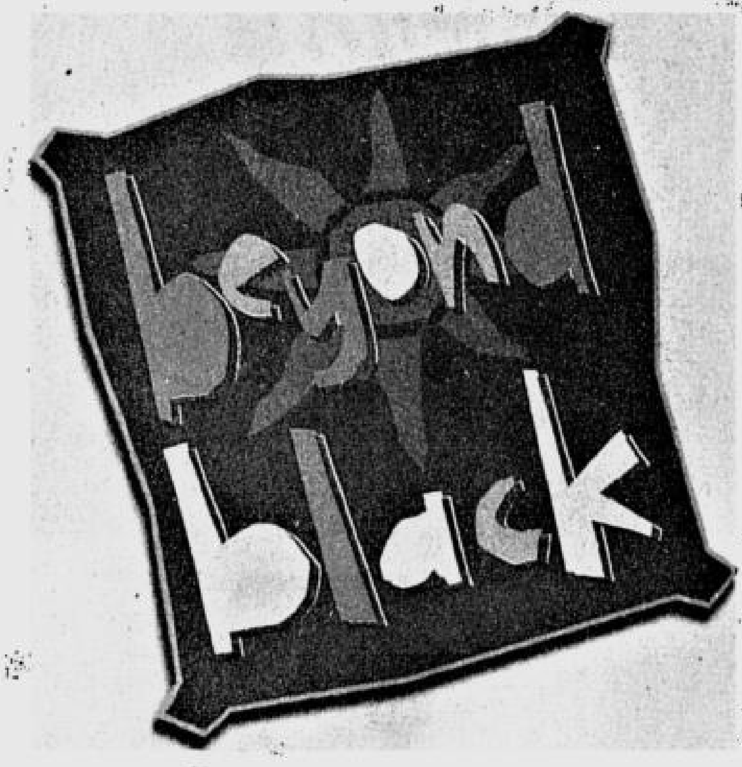

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Tomorrow people

OUT THE WINDOW

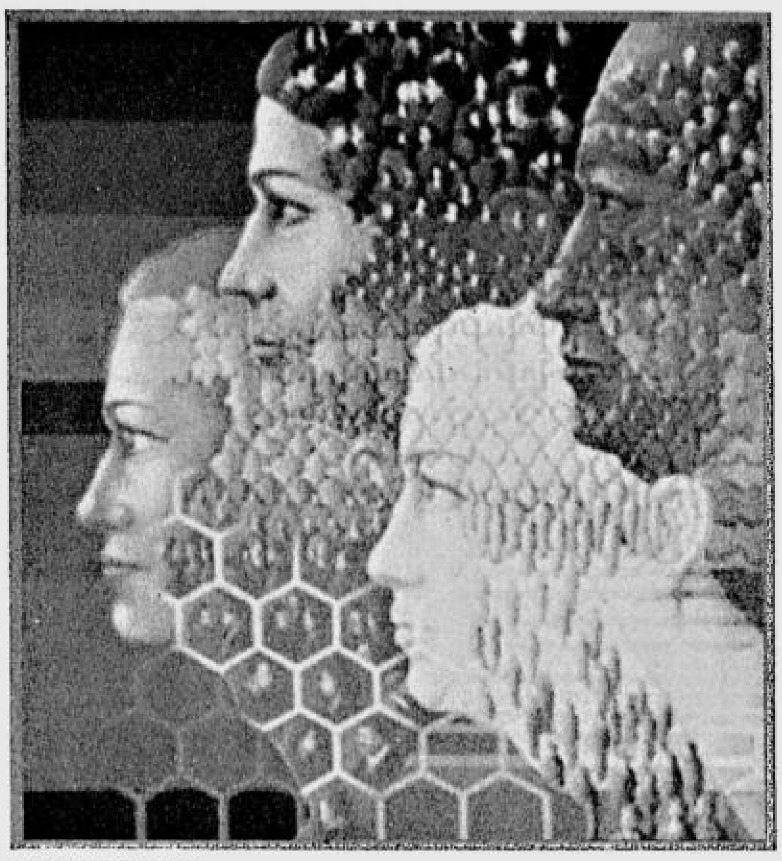
Tals Diaz

HALF a century ago, a far-out idea was conceived to please the discriminating globetrotter. An inventor named Buck Fuller proposed building a man-made space ring to encircle the Earth just above the equator, in order for people to climb aboard and ride on while the Earth rotated beneath them. When the intended destination came into view below, the adventurous jetsetter would thereby descend to the exotic locale. In other words, a place would literally come to you.

Obviously, that revolutionary concept of travelling never really caught on, but in these modern climes, faraway places do manage to find their way to us. I need only to walk around the bustling metropolis to notice how certain rudiments of global culture are pasted together, forming a collage that provides the backdrop of urban living. Japanese and German cars line the city streets, or whiz by Chinese take-outs, English pubs and carinderias showing basketball on television.

I walk into an American coffee chain and hear Caribbean tunes being played. A cashier asks if I prefer roasts from Colombia, or those from Sumatra or Kenya. Even on occasions when I try to "get away from it all" and hie off to remote regions in the country, I still get a kick out of how vestiges of far off cultures creep up when I least expect them.

> Tech talk downplays man's ability to adapt in unique ways to technology, such that he remains master over his machine



HI-TETHNICITY

Just a couple of weeks back, in a cozy little *kubo* amidst long stretches of rice fields in Bicol, I was enjoying my *kinilaw* when Bebel Gilberto's music suddenly perfumed the afternoon air. While chilling in an ocean-side bar in Siargao Island, surrounded by Brits, Kiwis, Israelis and Aussies watching the wave reports, I espied the makeshift library by the TV and found tomes about the Incas and Napoleon Bonaparte. And perhaps in one of my more bizarre experiences of cultural mish-mashing, I dined on raclette cheese and French wine in a Swiss chalet while playing "The Doors" in, of all places, a small town in the Mountain Province.

Thanks to the wonders of modern technology, travel and communication, we have become pedestrians traversing streets in a truly global village. And our neighborhood is getting smaller by the second. In a sense, this was the future envisioned by the inventor Buck Fuller when he conceived the global space ring—a connected world wherein the exotic is a mere step away.

Science Friction

We modernites of the 21st century seem to have made a warm little neighborhood for ourselves, a far cry from the cold cyberworld predicted by many science fiction writers that flourished in the past few decades.

Classic science fiction emphasized the role of high technology and, conversely, the dehumanizing effects it would have on society. The future, or our today, was given an almost soulless, colorless quality. Many sci-fi themes dwelt on how man would be enslaved by his own creation; how man would become the real alien detached in an unrecognizable landscape. Indeed, I always had a creepy (yet highly pleasurable) feeling each time I read the chronicles and "Twilight Zone" stories written by Ray Bradbury, for the main characters always seemed to be struggling alone against the horrors of manmade inventions. I got the same chilling sentiments with Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World," pondering on free will and the human soul of superior babies that are created and conditioned in laboratories. (You can't take the Atenean out of me.) George Orwell's "1984" described a despotic computer called "Big Brother" that monitored citizens' every move by camera.

Certainly, technology has a dehumanizing aspect to it, if only by virtue of the way it slowly renders obsolete what is natural to man. Human instinct is vulnerable in the hands of modern technique. A glaring example would be how emailing and text messaging, a concept that was virtually unheard of 10 years ago, have replaced the sound of a voice and the stroke of penmanship with input activated by binary permutations.

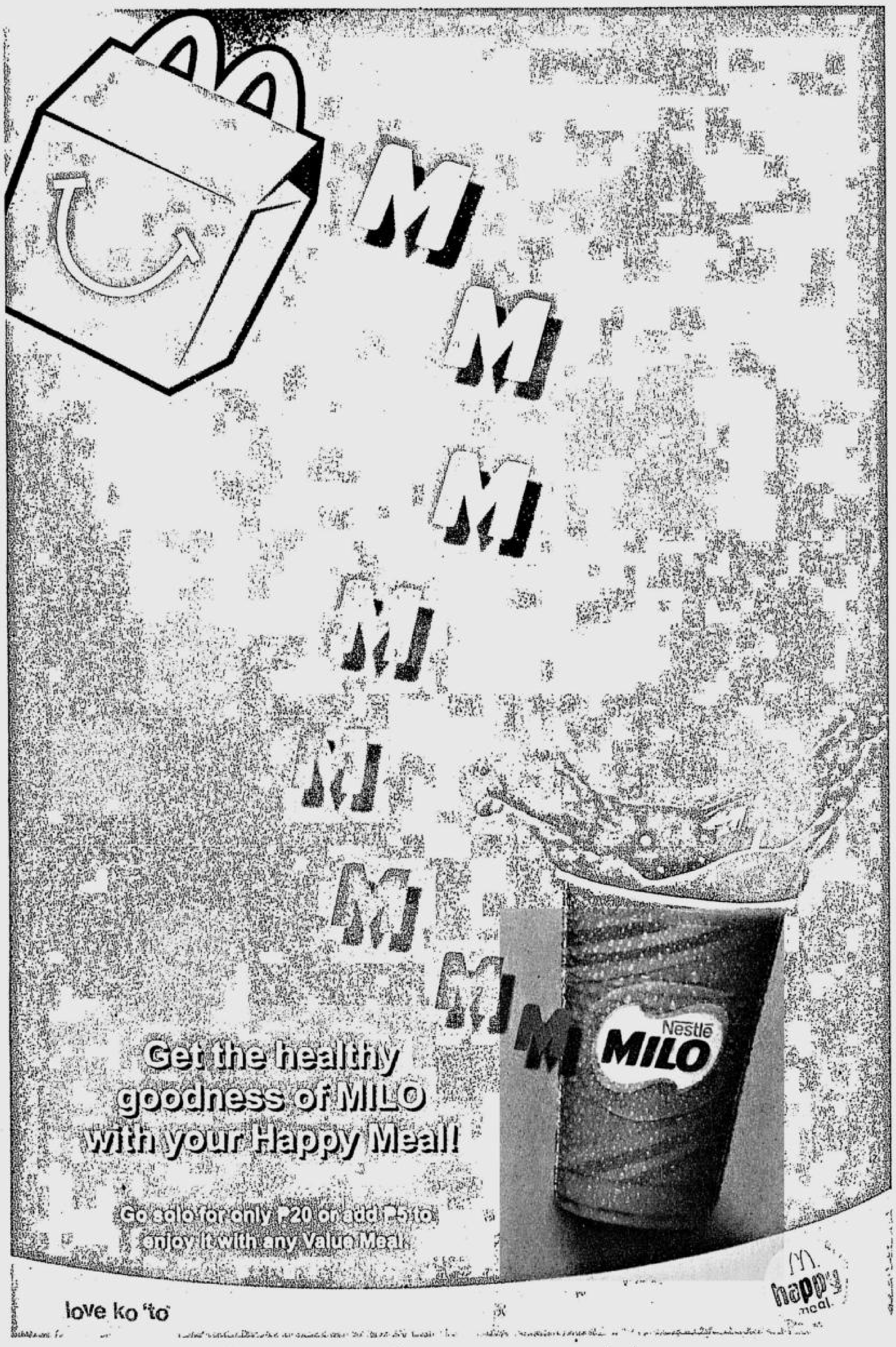
The one thing I believe is largely downplayed by all the tech talk is mankind's ability to keep evolving, to keep adapting in unique ways to technological advancements such that he is still master over his machine. One good thing brought about by faster communication and travel is the ability to transcend boundaries and break through barriers in the cultural landscape, thereby opening up mindsets and perspectives to new ideas. This is for me the crux of what it's truly like to be living in a global community: to be given the opportunity to constantly discover and explore where it was once difficult to do so. Unlike the cold reality we're supposed to be enduring today, technological innovation actually extracted something deeper within us, a kind of awakening in fact.

'Tethnicity'

Thus, we should never forget the possibilities of a different kind of progress, and that is the ability to innovate ourselves.

My own vision of tomorrow's people? I boldly predict that, in time, the bridging of cultures would bring take human connection even further. I predict that in centuries to come, the mixed race would no longer be a pleasant oddity but a Panworld population's distinct character. The world is already celebrating the phenomenon of the Eurasian, an embodiment not only of mixed bloodlines but also of mixed ideals—a fusion of traditional Asian traits and liberal Western characteristics. (Time magazine ran a cover story that explored this phenomenon.) It's this breakthrough that I personally label "tethnicity, " a positive outcome that tells of the conquering human spirit alongside scientific progress. If we press the right buttons, technology need not become a shackling of human nature, but a means to free our minds, and ourselves.

(E-mail the author at: inca_orange@yahoo.com)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Can you hear the sound of the future?

Mad, mad house of music

Text and photos by Tim Yap

"HELLO, Moto!"

The tune proceeded to twist and turn—a techno ring tone that made me "throw my hands in the air, and wave it like I just don't care."

I am getting a bit carried away—but I have reason to. A couple of months back, Motorola flew me to Miami, Florida along with MTV maverick Rod Nepomuceno to witness the sneak earview of this convergence of music and lifestyle—"Miami Music Multimedia"—a gathering of the world's leaders in sound and technology, whose collective goal it is to make life better, not to mention much more fun.

One thing is undeniable: the way we enjoy things (music being a big part of recreation) has transformed in the past few years, and technology (which I was so petrified with and intimidated by, until this trip) has been at the core of this evolution—the mobile revolution. It's no longer the American Express card that people can't leave home without; it's the cell phone.

Embrace the future

The Miami trip meant conversations with DJ slash dance music mover slash god Pete Tong; dynamic discussions with Danger Mouse, who mixed the Beatles' White album with Jay Z's Black album to produce his own Grey album; and phone tinkering with DJ Paul Van Dyk, who composed the ring tone for my new Motorola E398. And that was the serious side.

I realize that mobile giant Motorola is serious about winning the next generation—since they have already won with the present one, registering number one in sales in the United States and China—as they launch their new models. It's out to blast the competition with iPOd features, i.e., surround sound (like the THX of phones) with 200 minutes of music space, music mixing features (my "buddy" Paul Van Dyk taught me how to mix on my mobile), and even clearer photo and video systems. "Instead of fearing the future, we have to embrace it," said chief brand officer Geoffrey Frost.

MAD/12

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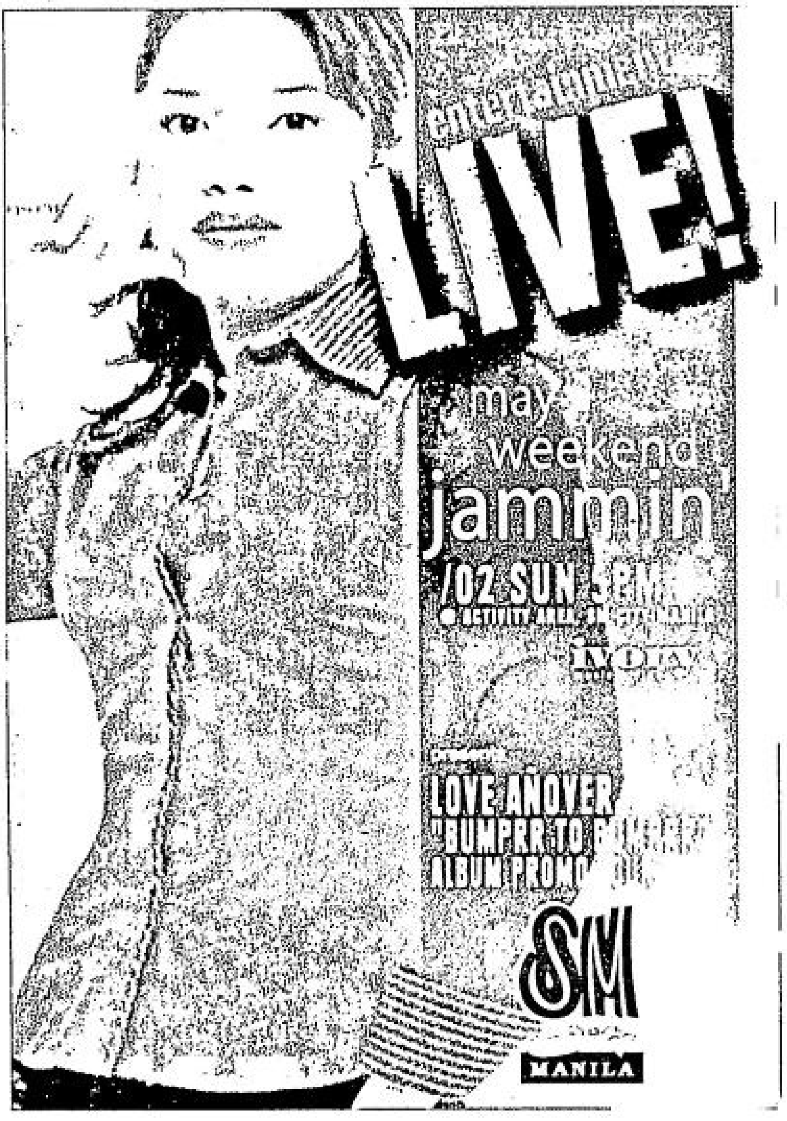

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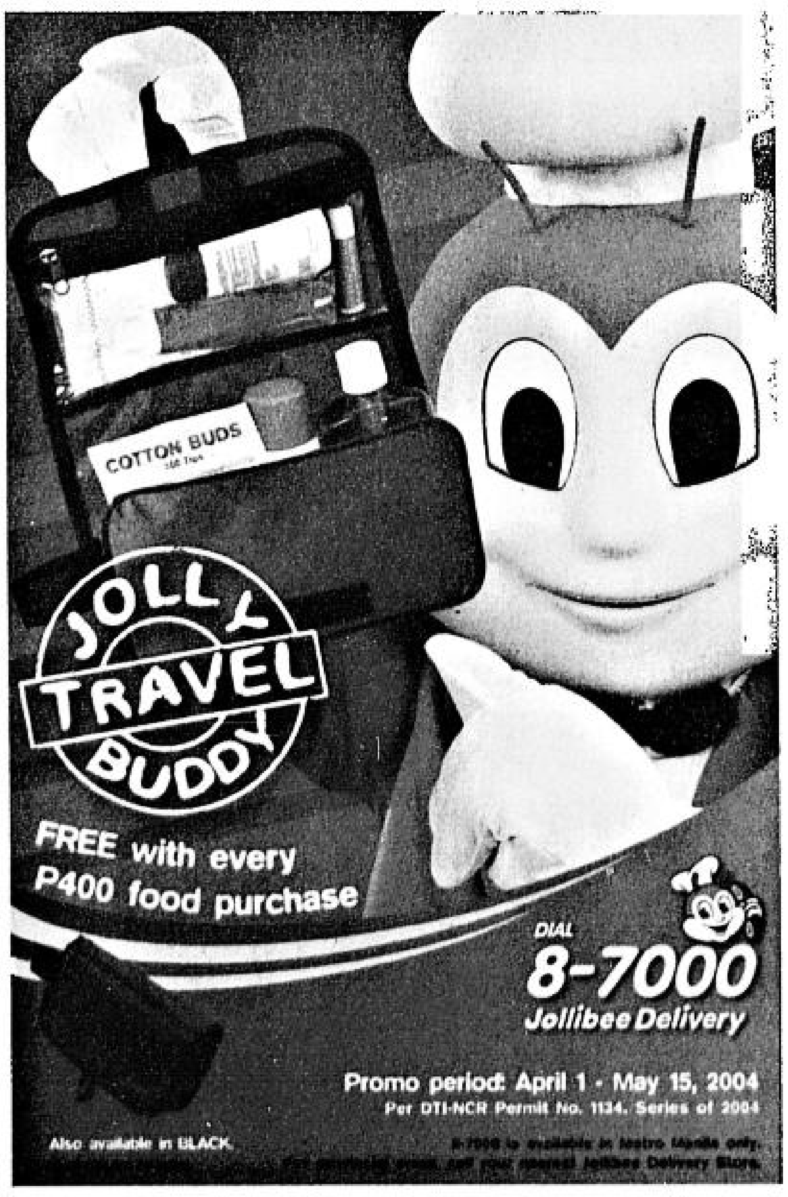

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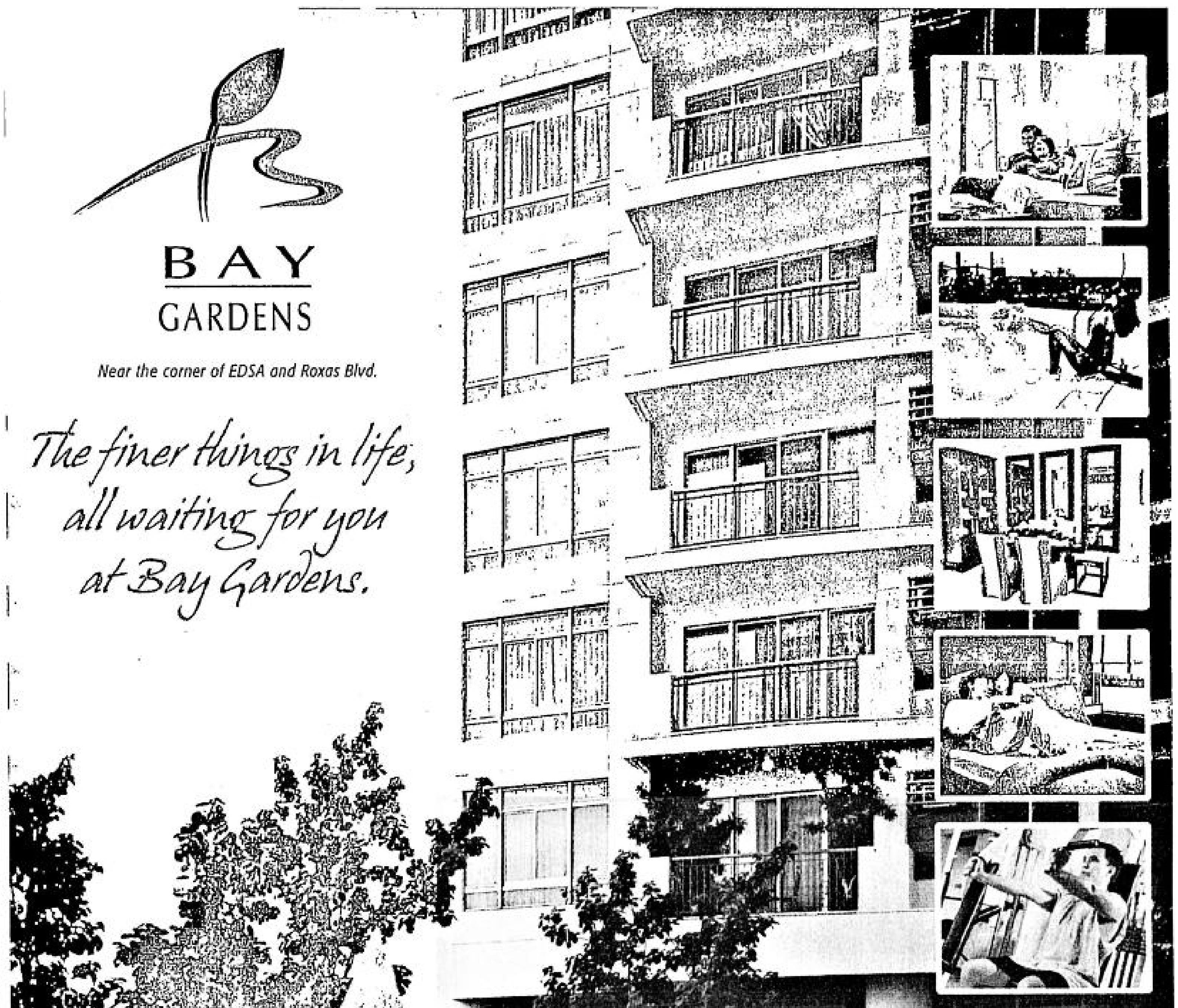

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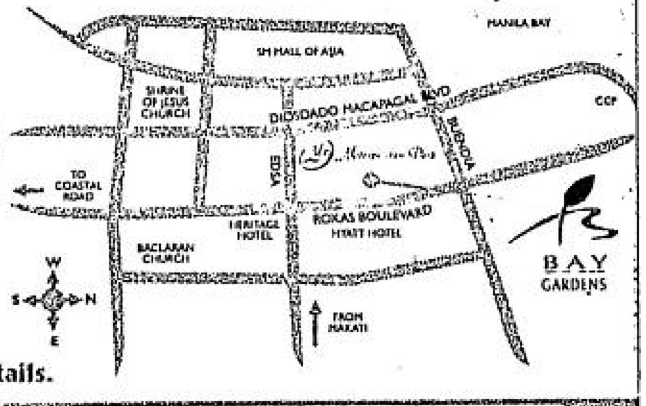

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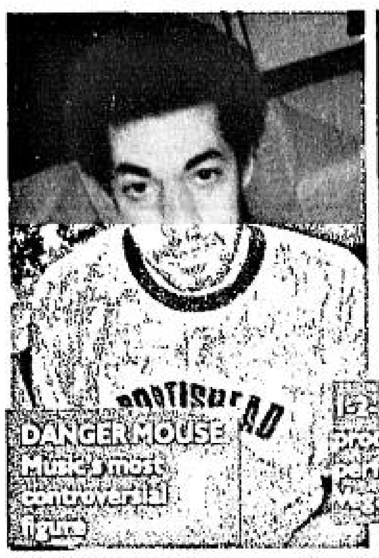


DANGER MOUSE. Music's most controversial figure

1-2-3-4-5...MUSIC producer and performer Louie Vega

HELLO MOTO. Motorola DJ strikes a pose

DJ GOD. Pete Tong at the multimedia summit

wHo tHe
fUCK iS
PRADA

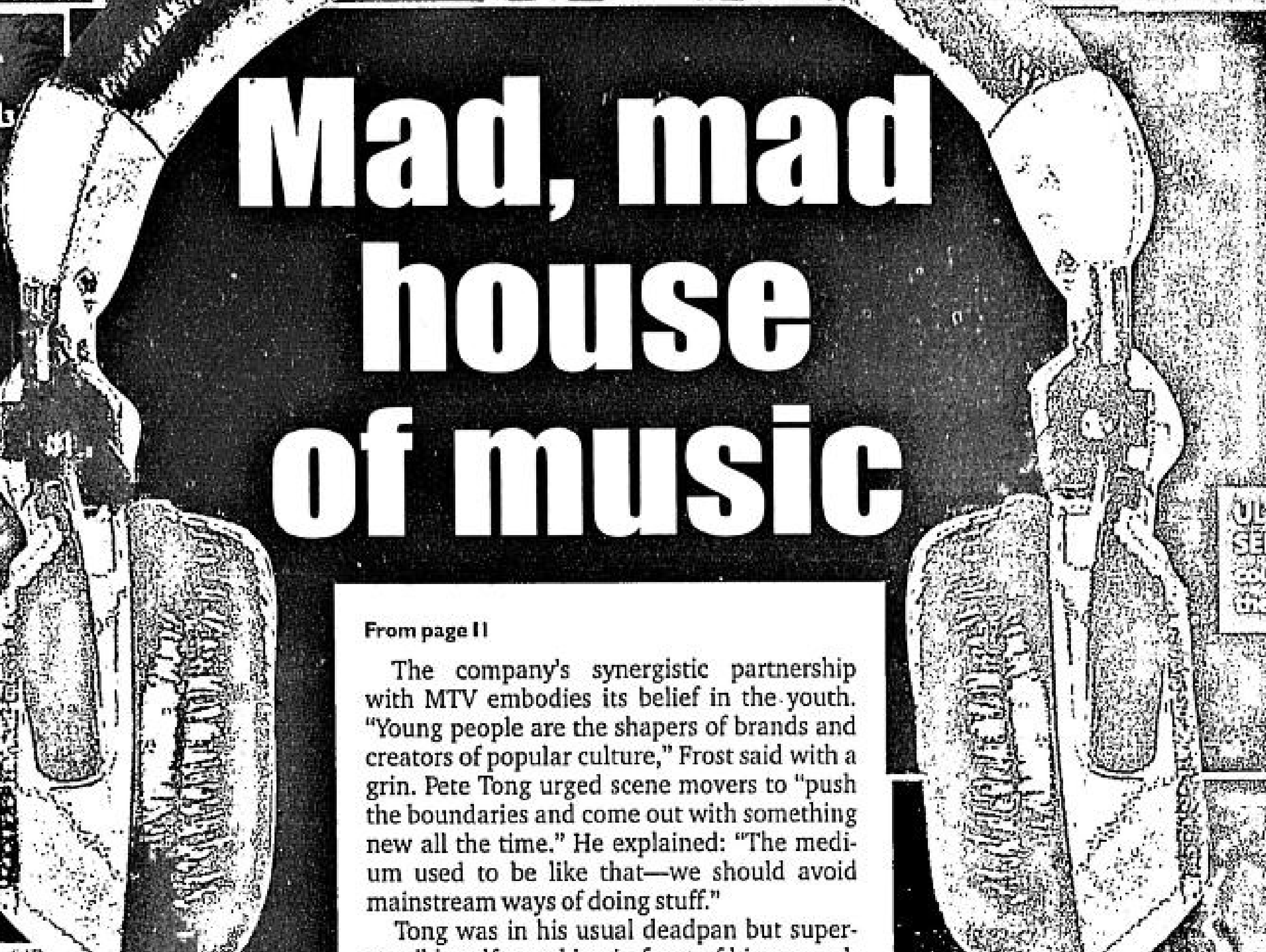
AND who the f*@#k are you?

I SWEAR, *kumopal ang buhok ko!*

ROCKY
MOTOROLA

PIMPS LIKE US. The DJs at the Motorola booth before doing their set

Mad, mad house of music



From page 11

The company's synergistic partnership with MTV embodies its belief in the youth. "Young people are the shapers of brands and creators of popular culture," Frost said with a grin. Pete Tong urged scene movers to "push the boundaries and come out with something new all the time." He explained: "The medium used to be like that—we should avoid mainstream ways of doing stuff."

Tong was in his usual deadpan but supersensible self, speaking in front of hip pop culture journalists from all over the world gathered at Miami's South Beach.

Aside from the Motorola Music Multimedia event, another music fest was happening right at the same time: the Miami Winter Music Conference 2004, a gathering of the world's best DJs and music producers to discuss the industry's direction.

And this meant 24-hour partying. From beach chill to sunset sessions to all-nighter raves, onwards to sunrise and beyond. It was like the monicker, "City that never sleeps" was conferred on Florida. Add to this spring break kids, Euro trash and class coming together in the name of music, and what have you got? A mad, mad house of music and mayhem.

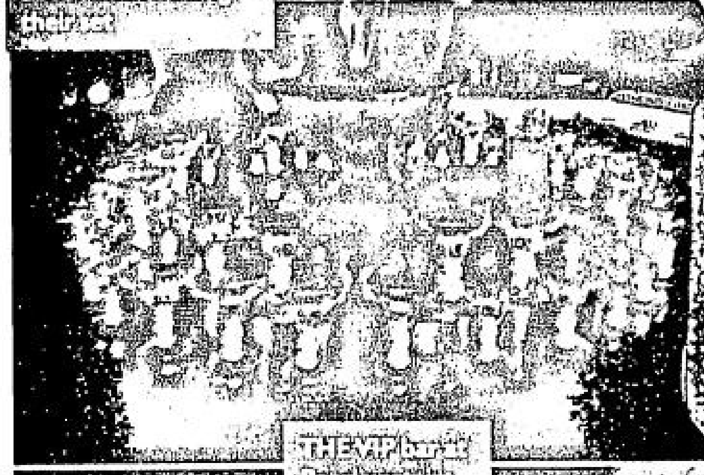
The daily DJ line up is nearly ludicrous—from gods like Paul Oakenfold, Sasha and Digweed, Tiesto, Danny Tenaglia, Armand Van Helden to the Chemical Brothers to some other obscure but great acts. Everyday was a DJ day. So much so that my eardrums wanted to burst, though my feet wouldn't stop. The vibe was focused during the day as we sat in seminars listening to the experts, and festive at night when we partied with the same experts.

From my nightly hops, I noticed that r&b has really made a dent in the scene, at least for now, taking over the hottest house acts. "Mish mashes," a fusion of house beats and vocals and rap is going to be the trend for this year and next, and so on. CDs and music samplers were given away like fliers in order for music producers to promote their work.

After all that indulgence, one thing got stuck in my head—the mobile revolution is here. Motorola man Geoffrey Frost best summed up the present to future arena in his own optimistic way.

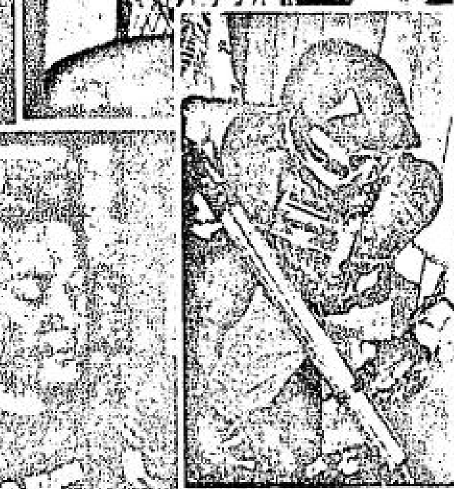
"Never grow old with your audience. Lead, lead, lead."

The future is bright, indeed.



THE VIP bar at Pearl upstairs from Nikki beach

ULTRA SEDUCTION. A couple making the moves



CARL COX at Crobar

EURO CLASS D. Ferry Corsten with wife Liz Colayco-Corsten

LOUNGE TIME. Partyphiles chilling out

PINOY SPOTTING. Rod Nepomuceno (center) with Leo and Au Bermejo

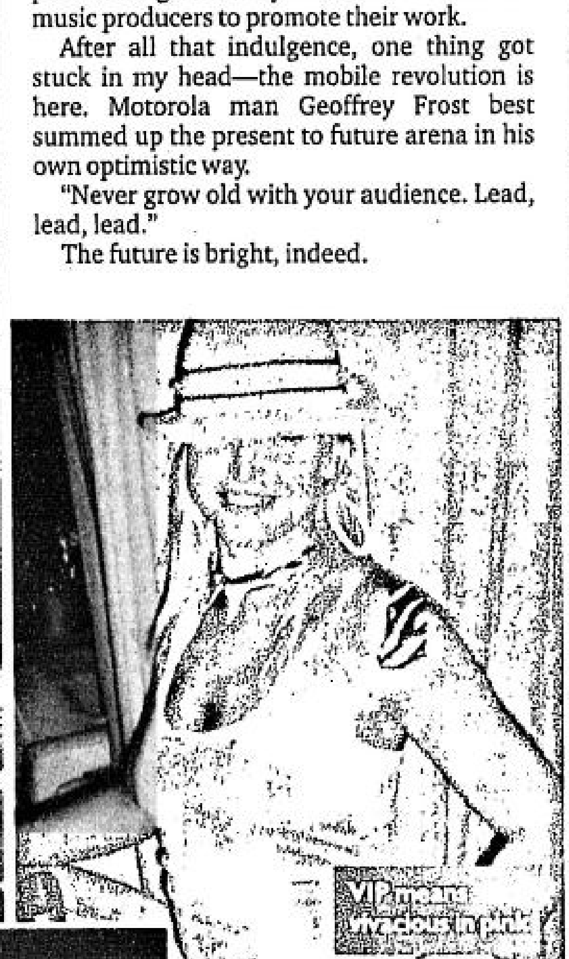
PEACE! Hold that tiger

CRUISING with my 'buddy,' Motorola endorser Paul Van Dyk

SCRATCH IT. Now with technology, everybody can really be a DJ

MODEL AND MUSE. Sean John campaign model with stylist Kim Amigo

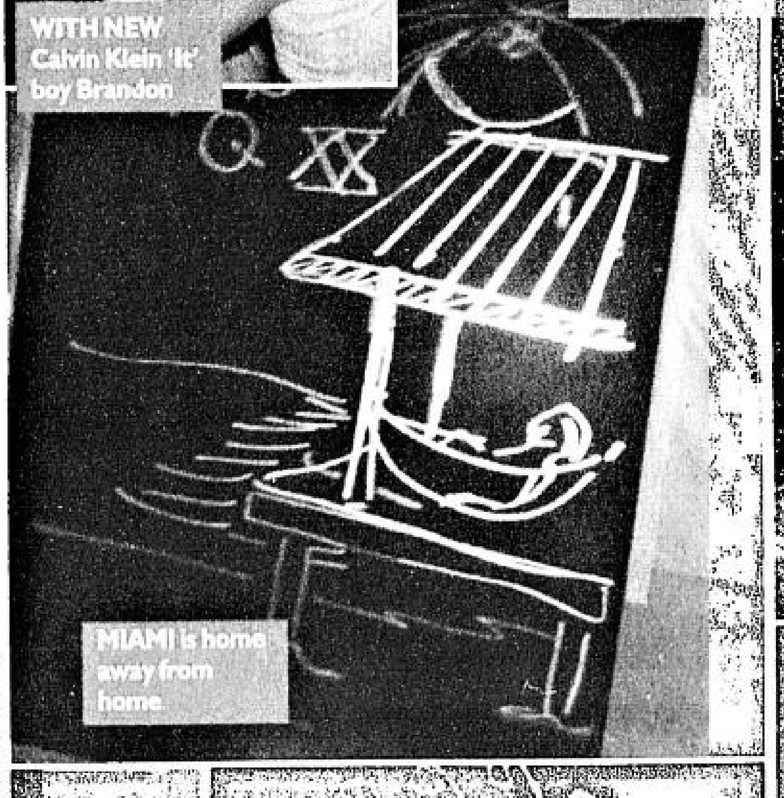
A LIST. Carlo and Marco Antonio at Crobar



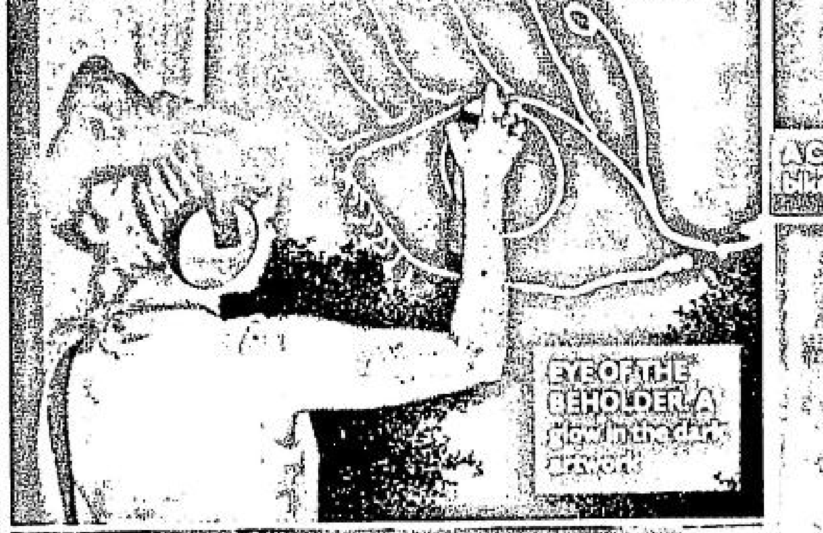
VIP means vivacious in pink

WITH NEW Calvin Klein 'It' boy Brandon

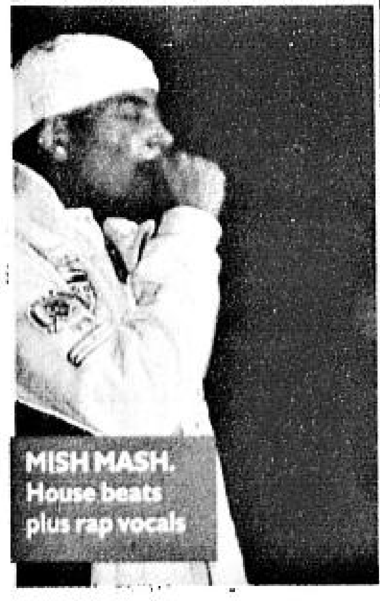
FRENCH DJ Antoine Clamaran at Nikki Beach



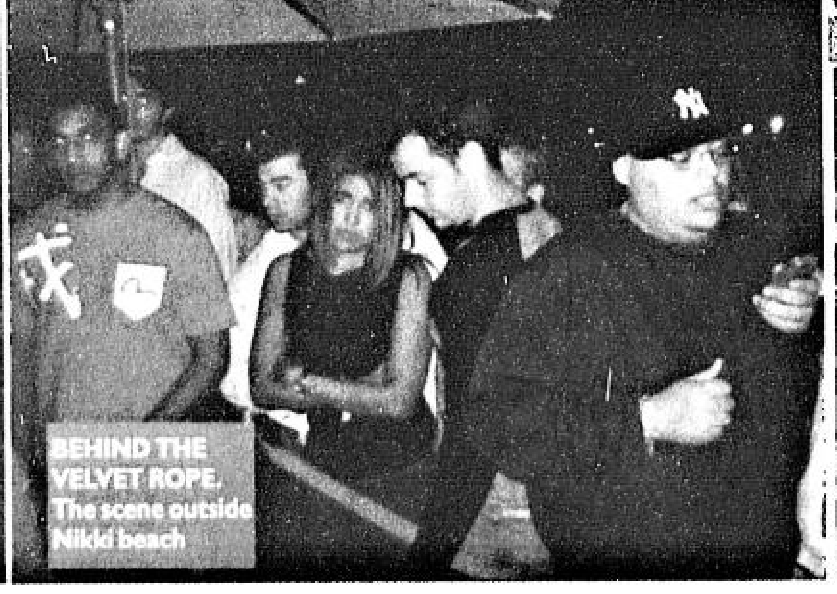
MIAMI is home away from home



EYE OF THE BEHOLDER. A glow in the dark artwork



MISH MASH. House beats plus rap vocals



BEHIND THE VELVET ROPE. The scene outside Nikki beach

ANOTHER South Beach pretty face

COLOR IT FROM BEHIND. My camera spotted these three lovelies

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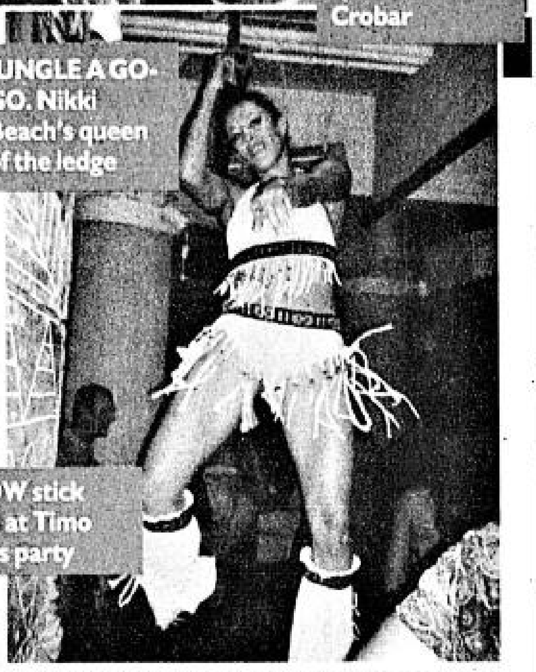
CYBER go-go gal spotted at Crobar

CARL COX
SAT. MARCH 6, 2004
crobar
MIAMI 2004
Paradise
GONNA SKIP COLLEGE + GO STRAIGHT TO THE PROS
amsterdam dance event 2004

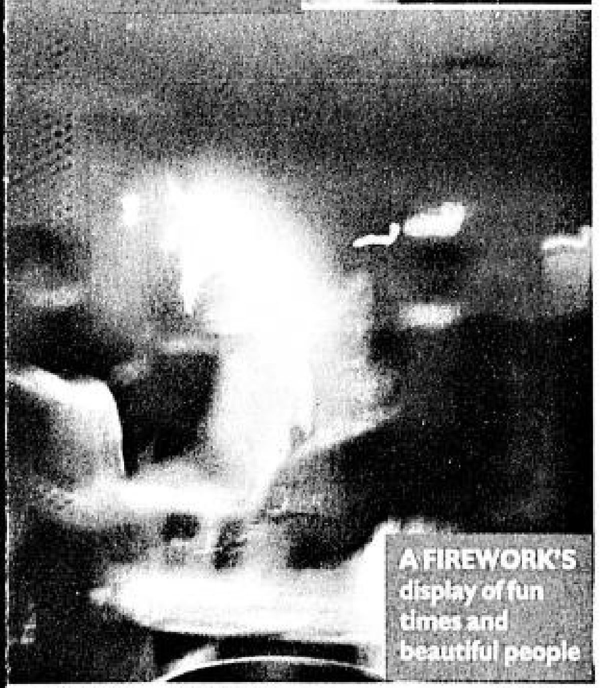
THE MOTOROLA E398 (above) launched in Miami



JUNGLE A GO-GO. Nikki Beach's queen of the ledge

GLOW stick man at Timo Maas party

DJ PRINCESS SUPERSTAR with Casey Fischerspooner



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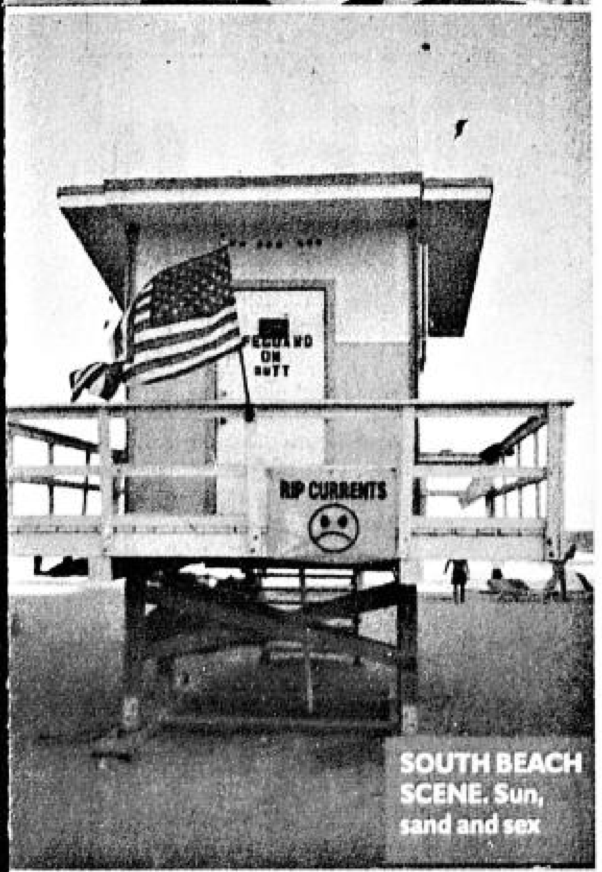

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1099 Camachile. St.,
Singalong, Manila
Accepting applicants
for school year 2004-05
Children aged 3-6
SUMMER CLASS
May 3 to 28, 2004
Tel. – 524-0552 ; 484-4166
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WHAT'S ON
AT ROBINSONS

National Scrabble Competition
All scrabble afficionados are invited to witness this event. Watch the best minds converge as they show their wit and talent sponsored by the National Scrabble Association of the Philippines and Robinsons Place Lipa.

May [illegible] 10 - 6pm
Activity Area
Robinsons Place Lipa

ROBINSONS Place LIPA

By Martin Valdes
Photos by Victor Consunji
Styling by Gian Romano

THAI pop princess Tata Young burst into the music scene over 10 years ago and never looked back. Twelve years and 12 million albums sold later, the multi-awarded, multi-talented performer refuses to rest on her laurels. She recently released her first English-language record, "I Believe." Super! caught Tata between breaths, and wondered if she ever gets Thai-*rd*.

I really like your latest single, "Sexy, Naughty, Bitchy." Are you more naughty then bitchy, but sexy most of all?

You can switch them all around, but I am all of them one hundred percent.

So what's the sexiest, naughtiest, bitchiest thing you've ever done?

Basically, the sexiest, naughtiest, bitchiest thing I've ever done was ... this guy walked up to me and said, "Dinner?" I said, "No." He said, "Movie?" I said, "No." He said, "Number?" I said, "No." Finally he asked, what was it going to take for me to go out with him? I told him he had to dance *on* the bar. And this guy was, like, one of the most famous actors in Thailand!

Did he do it?

I dated him for three years.

You know you could make a reggae version if you made it, "Me Sexy, Me Naughty, Me Bitchy." Ever think of converting one of your old Thai songs into an English hit?

You know, I've never really thought of that, but it's something I would have to sit down and think about. I'm not sure the songs would ... fit, but it's worth looking into.

You were exposed to the entertainment industry at the age of 11. I was playing with Barbie dolls at the time. I must say, I think you missed out on a lot!

I don't miss Barbie, I miss Ken.

Sometimes, so do I. You've won all these awards, you've been listed as one of Asia's most influential personalities, you can sing, you can act, you can dance. Do you think you're better than everybody else?

Not at all.

Better than me, at least. Do you suck at cooking or something?

I am an excellent cook! What can't I do well? Don't make me do anything like laundry or cleaning, I guess.

A lot of pop stars nowadays don't have the staying power of, let's say, Madonna. Why is that?

Because there is so much competition out there. Good ones, too! I can name a lot of singers coming out with pop albums, and people are just trying to catch up because there is so much of it out there.

And how are they going to decide who the next Britney or Madonna is?

So if you're still around at

TATA/J2

"SEXY, naughty, bitchy me..."

If you want to play like Jolas, call us!

Learn to play basketball from Jojo Lastimosa at the

ALASKA® POWER CAMP®

Register at:

Alaska Milk Corporation
6/F Corinthian Plaza Bldg.
121 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Tel. No. 840-4500 loc.171
e-mail: jolas@alaskamilk.com.ph

Ateneo de Manila University
Loyola Physical Education Program
College Covered Courts
Tel. No. 426-6001 loc. 5060/5070

Or register online at:
www.pba.com.ph/alaska

Kids 7 to 17 years old now have the chance to learn to play like a real pro — at this year's Alaska Basketball Power Camp with Jojo Lastimosa. Imagine, seven fulfilling days of intense scientific training under the multi-awarded athlete, using techniques designed by Alaska Head Coach Tim Cone. This means participants will be trained in the same way as the Alaska Aces team — with emphasis on the fundamentals of the game, namely, dribbling, shooting and passing. The more experienced participants can expect to receive expert training and playing tips from Jolas, while other select Alaska Aces players will also drop by once in a while to share their professional basketball experience. And to top this exciting clinic, an "All Star Game" will be held on the last day of the Alaska Basketball Camp where, like the pros, participants can showcase what they have learned, and get to compete in a 3-on-3 halfcourt game, 3-Point Shootout, Skills Game, and Slam Dunk Competition. What's more, every participant who completes the camp will receive a medal, aside from a free shirt and gifts! A special award will also be given to the Most Outstanding Player of the Camp. Participants who display exceptional talent and promise for the sport may be identified by Jolas for continued training, and get valuable consultation from him even after the camp!

Slots are limited, so hurry and sign up now! Don't miss this one-of-a-kind opportunity to learn Jolas Basketball at the Alaska Basketball Power Camp!

Jolas
www.pba.com.ph/alaska

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OPEN TO BOYS & GIRLS 7 TO 17 YEARS OLD!

SCHEDULE :
May 19, 21, 22, 25, 26, 29 and 30

TIME :
8:30 am to 11:30 am

VENUE :
Ateneo College Covered Courts

FEE :
P3,500 per participant
(includes free t-shirt and basketball)

ALASKA
ALASKA MILK CORPORATION

Tata Young and Restless

From page J1

Madonna's age, I guess you'll have to change your name to Forever Young? Haha!

(Gives me a stare that can wither roses.)

I'm sorry. Next question. Any one you'd like to professionally collaborate with in the future?

50 cent. Chingy. As you can see they're hip-hop artists, because I don't rap, so they can do it for me.

I noticed a lot of female-empowerment, independent-woman songs on your album. Some guy broke your heart, right?

Many guys have broken my heart. Many.

You were in Sweden for a year, developing your album, "I Believe," with the Hitvision duo. What's with the Swedish people and pop music, anyway?

They've got the best people. They've got the best equipment. They know their music.

What's better, a Swedish massage or a Thai massage?

A Thai massage.

Would you give me a Thai massage?

What would you give me?

How about a bar dance?

It's been done.

(Tata is here to spearhead MTV's Rock the Vote—a pro-social concert that aims to promote a simple but very important message: be smart. Get involved. Votemoto. Choose or lose. Vote in the coming election.)

Photos by VICTOR CONSUNJI
Styling By GIAN ROMANO
All watches from SWATCH
All tops from GROOVY ANNE SHIRTS
FOR ORDERS PLEASE CALL 0917-5312131
Underwear by BENCH

The air up there

By Tim Yap

WHAT: Super! post shoot bonfire cocktails

Where: Camp John Hay Manor · Baguio City

With: Super! crew with the young artists of Baguio

When: Peak of summer 2004, right after the anniversary party of Baguio institution Cafe by the Ruins

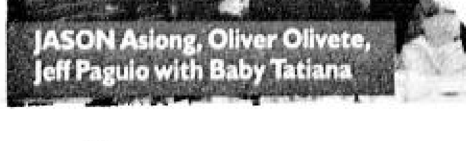
Why: Free flowing discussion on the exchange of ideas between tribes—each one as enthusiastic, open minded and creative as the other.

Why we'll come back: In Baguio, the artists are the rockstars. Salud Bistro, Kawayan and Kabunyan de Guia. Fresh air. Undiscovered, young talent. The future of the art scene.

YOUTH ART SHAKERS. Lady Alberto and Kabunyan de Guia

SALUD TO YOU. Nina Poblador and Vernon Perez

MOUNTAIN DIVE Gutsy Tuason and Amanda Griffin

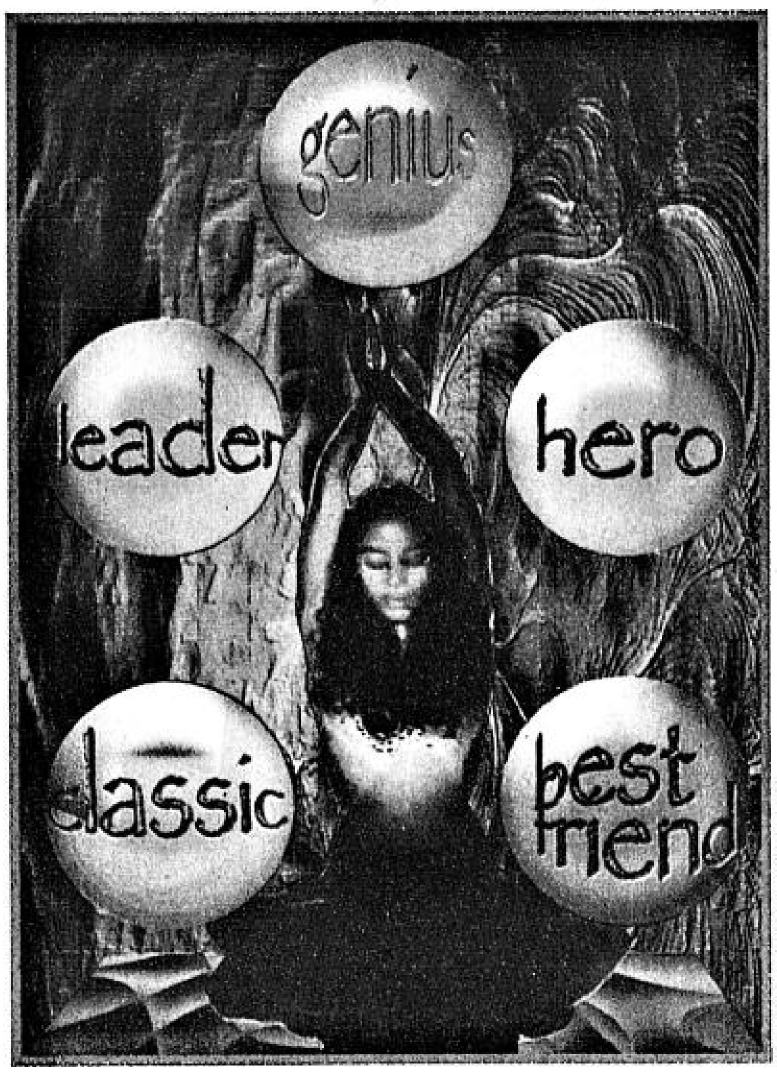


JASON Asiong, Oliver Olivete, Jeff Paguio with Baby Tatiana

MANOR MANIA. Boots Moyer, Jasmine Cabrera, Anton Pamintuan

24K. Katt Torres with her baby

SUPER! GOES TO BAGUIO. Gian Romano, Boots Moyer, Steve Tirona, Kat Agarado, Tim Yap. (Behind) Marcus Maguigad, Vernon Perez, Albert Genato



DIGITAL ARTWORKS BY MARTIN VALDES

SWEET dreams are made of these

It appears that we have allowed the temples of high concept to be infiltrated by vendors with little respect for the sacred

The rape of concept

By Martin Valdes

IT took one Jesus to unite the Christian world, and three of his representatives to shatter it. The Papal Schism of Europe continues to rank as one of the low points of civilization, arguably more influential and definitely just as destructive as any of the plagues or great wars that ravaged the Western continents at around the same epoch. Resulting from an astonishingly petty cocktail of logistics and misplaced nationalism, the Catholic Church was divided over a choice of three leaders during the last quarter of the 14th century: Urban VI, Clement VII and Alexander V.

The confusion was compounded by the impotence of the clergy that had elected them in the first place, and the refusal of each Pope to surrender their posts (comically, they excommunicated one another). The most damaging consequence of the schism was that it revealed the Papacy as fragile, incapable of maintaining the high purpose necessary of its function, susceptible to human error when it should have been divine. The trust of the people had been violated, the concept had been raped.

Similar symptoms infect modern society, albeit in a scale of less grandeur, but of no less significance. Everyday we are witness to, and perpetrator of, the crimes of conceptual abuse. To understand how we are complicit, we must begin with a definition, because we usually get an idea all wrong already from its fundamental character.

A perfect world?

A concept is an idea derived or inferred from specific instances with a singular purpose. When we speak of concept, we are referring to an abstraction that manifests in a general direction. High concepts are those ideas that surpass the arena of human experience and achieve special mention because of their rarity. Genius, Classic, Legend, Leader, and even the less heroic Best Friend or Soul Mate, are all examples of high concepts. By their very essence, they are special due to their supposed infrequency.

Yet today these terms are used indiscriminately. How often have we heard the label "genius" slapped onto the last popular musician to release a catchy single? How (annoyingly) frequently do colleagues confide they've found a new "best friend"? How many times have the latest box-office movie hit been described to us as a "classic"? If all the hype is to be believed, then we must be living in a world bursting with quality, where the next perfect "leader" is waiting to be heralded while underachieving in some television show.

Unfortunately, it appears that we have allowed the temples of high concept to be infiltrated by vendors with little respect for the sacred. As a consequence, the rituals and mystique of such ideals have lost potency. One reason for this is the exponential increase of media in our lives. The constant sensory deluge of new music, art, fashion and literature leaves us scant time to reflect on and discern what we are ingesting. Big business also demands that media products be packaged and shifted as quickly as possible, thus everything is promoted as if it were God's (latest) gift to mankind.

Those were the days

The loss of critical dialogue exacerbates this process of deterioration. In the past, people would create opportunities to discuss the merits of a new personality, a new situation, or a new work of art. The cafés of Paris where populated with pundits who compared notes on emerging trends. The streets of New York were asphalt barometers for the social atmosphere. Even Manila boasted some of the sharpest critics of communal orientation. Those were the days when ferocity of standard was considered a necessity for progressive living.

Sadly, these gatherings have lost momentum and focus, and most people now offer their opinions without expecting reciprocity of thought. The arguments have become one-way streets, with participants unwilling to constructively offer or receive fresh perspectives on ideas pre-cemented beforehand. We hide behind the illusory curtain of a false democracy, hollering about our right to subjective opinion yet inflexible to intelligent debate.

Perhaps it is because of an excess of relativity that we have become too liberal with high concept. For lack of reference points universally agreed upon, we have charted individual landmarks. For lack of stars we can all see, we have conjured personal constellations. To be fair, it must have been easier in the past when true intellect, character and talent, blazed forth from the ranks with blistering audacity.

The American poet Ezra Pound defined classics as those that possessed a "certain eternal and irrepressible freshness." Robert Frost, another eminent poet, described them using the adjectives "immortal" and "enduring." High concept should not be easy to find, nor should it be ephemeral of nature. Like a four-leaf clover with leaves of tempered steel, these ideals should embody rarity and durability. Anything less is just a funny-looking plant.

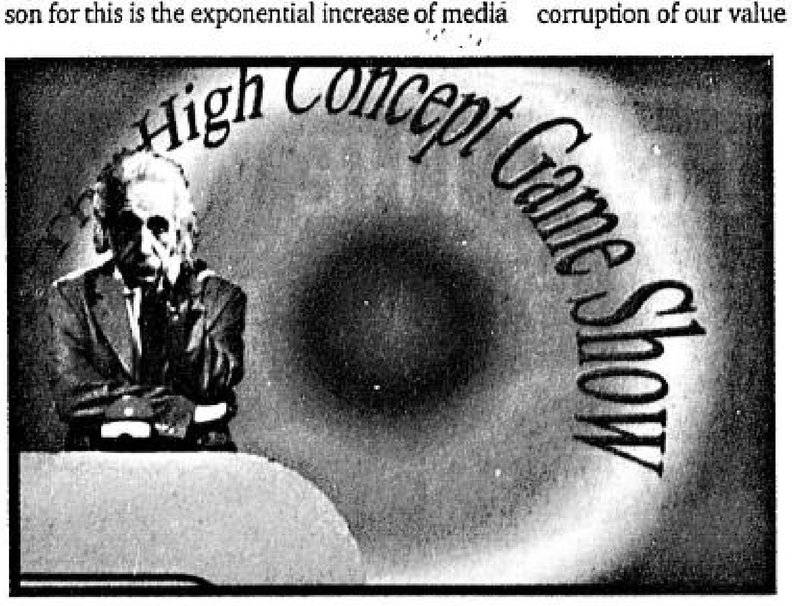
A test of mettle

Subtle, yet dire, are the consequences of our diminishing standards. One may say, "So what if I have a lot of best friends?", but this linguistic elasticity reflects a mental inclination to justify higher ideals according to stature. Concepts and institutions such as religion, morality, and politics should be open to investigation but resistant to personal interpretation. It seems obvious that human evolution results from change, but is regulated by an adherence to common principal. We have to stop putting words in God's mouth—because this can only lead to a corruption of our value system, an obscurity of global vision, and the tendency to settle for less instead of striving for more. They're not fighting over a game of Jenga in the Middle East, folks.

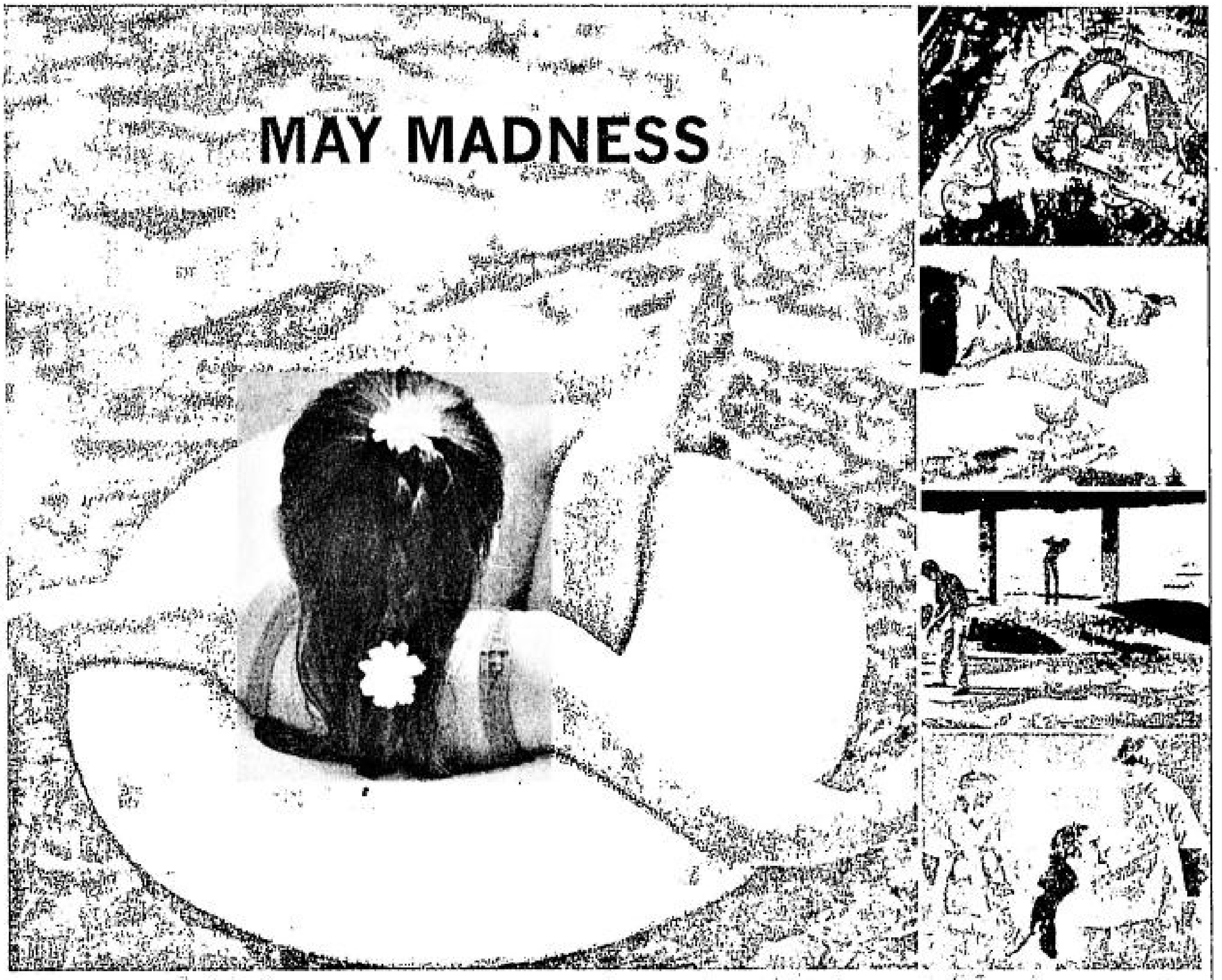
The forthcoming elections will test our mettle as a people to identify the qualities of high concept. Ask, citizen, what a leader is, and who comes closest to this definition. If we are honest with ourselves, we may find that while our candidates may differ, our vision should be similar. This way we challenge our nominees to elevate themselves, rather than have the populace modify a concept that should be above modification.

We need to keep high concepts sacred. A fragmentation of the Papal concept once shook the whole of Europe and its repercussions are still being felt today. The same kinds of quakes threaten our unity every time an idea loses credence. This is an era when we should refrain from the liberal use of sacred labels, ironically, because we *are* in desperate need of classics, legends, and heroes. We should give the genuine articles opportunity to emerge above the muck of pretenders. Let us keep our expectations high and our discernment arrogant, lest we tarnish history with substitutes of lower caliber than humanity deserves.

(E-mail author at lasengnomad@yahoo.com)


The High Concept Game Show

A GENIUS in jeopardy



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IN JUNE

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Kids get endless thrills at the lagoon pool and hours of creative fun at the new Westin Kids Clubhouse while you relax at the spa, play tennis or drive golf balls straight into the sea. Then do it all over again with a FREE STAY, because one great vacation deserves another!

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CONDITIONS: Rooms are subject to availability and black out dates. Prior reservation is required. Not to be combined with other offers or promotions. Applies to local residents and expatriates and not for group or corporate bookings. Free stay may be used from June 1 - 30, 2004. Free stay is exclusive of breakfast. Other conditions apply.

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LEAD THE WAY

Staying Cool This Sizzling Summer

See More Inside

Check out the centerspread and drool after the fashionable finds SM Supermalls has just for you

FLORAL printed shirts, bright hues, beach trips being planned, swimwear on the racks, sunblock on the shelves. All the signs are there and they point to one realization: summer is undeniably here. And during such a scorching season when sweat, scratching and squinted eyes are a staple, it's quite easy to get annoyed and lose one's temper. And this is why summer has only one commandment we all should have tattooed in our hearts: stay cool. Fortunately, the SM Supermalls are in total support of staying cool this summer. Dart into one and you'll instantly feel the refreshing blast of condi tioned air which makes the SM Supermalls such a comfort zone. And if that's not enough, the number of shops, restos and boutiques they have is so overwhelming you'd practically want to live in a mall. Cozy restaurants. Boutiques carrying the hippest of brands. Unique souvenir shops. SM has everything for everyone, and so much So if that trip to Mexico seems pretty expensive and farfetched, you can always go to an SM Supermalls and enjoy Mexican food, Latin music and fashion.

Remember, beating the heat is extremely easy. Just keep your cool.

TEAM VARSITY

To sleek and sexy summerwear this scorching season, it's all inside

From feet friendly footwear

And summer activities you can do right inside the mall

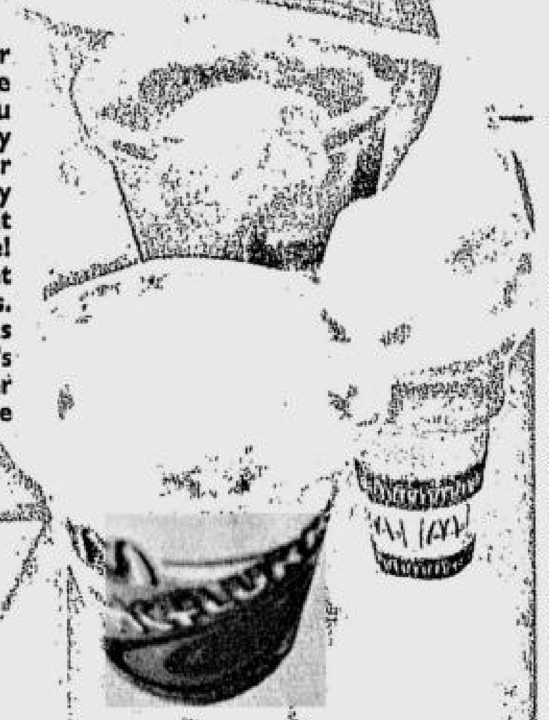
Dairy Queen
DQ

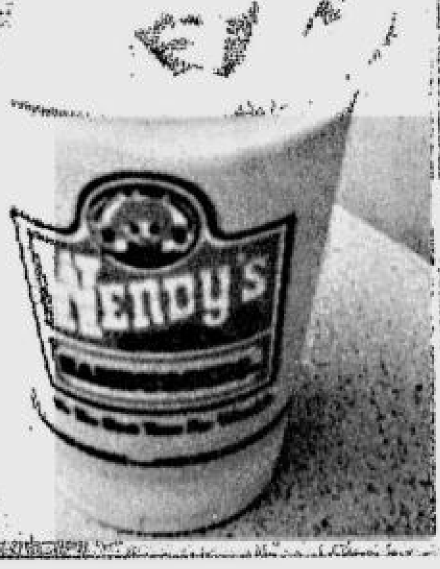
BRAIN FREEZE WITH DAIRY QUEEN

If it's brain freeze that you want then Dairy Queen will give you brain freeze with all the frozen delights that they offer. They have it all! Shakes, sundaes, dipped cones, Novelties like the Dilly bar and the DQ Sandwhich, Royal Treats like Banana Split, Peanut Buster Parfait and Fudge Brownie Delight. Plus Dairy Queen has the original Blizzard in yummy flavors like banana split, blueberry, mud pie, Nestle Crunch, Oreo Cookies, rocky road, strawberry, choco almond, Butterfinger and more! And lots of dips and sprinkles too!

MCDONALD'S SUPER SUMMER TREATS!

Is the summer heat getting on your nerves? Then what you need is a large chunk of ice-cold delights to cool you down. McDonald's presents its latest array of frozen delights to make your summer even more enjoyable. The time to try them is now! Strawberry Banana Split McFlurry (P29) Two fruit flavors in one! Yum! Corn McDip (P12) Corn is now yet another tasty alternative for your McDips. Mango Sundae (P20) Strawberry's sad as the only fruit flavor in McDonald's sundaes. But now there's a reason for her and everybody else to smile because Mango has arrived at the sundae scene!





FROSTY IS WENDY'S FROZEN DELIGHT

If something cold and sweet is what you're craving for this summer, then Wendy's Frosty is the dessert for you. Creamy and with just the right sweetness, it sure is one summer treat you'll want to have everyday. Available in 2 sizes: the Super Value Frosty at P25 and the large Frosty at P40.

SUPERMALLS

See More Shop More

Summer is no reason to be lazy. Be productive

SURE, it is so easy to let the summer season and its heat bring in the zzz's. With all the free time around plus the hypnotic humidity, sleep has got to be the first thing on everyone's lists. But hitting the sheets 24/7 is undeniably an unhealthy lifestyle. Too much of anything, after all, always brings in disastrous results. School may be out for most students this summer, but it doesn't necessarily mean that learning has got to stop too. The SM Supermalls have a bunch of tenants that can help you be busy and productive this vacation. So peel your rear from your seat, flex those

muscles and make sure your summer won't go wasted.

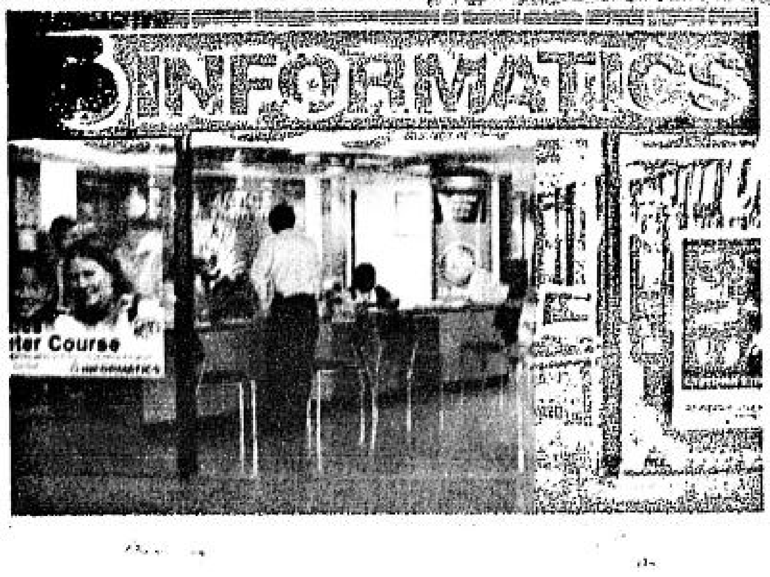
Netopia
For a totally satisfactory computer experience, Netopia is where you should be headed. Not only do they offer network gaming with the world, they now also have an internet promo to satisfy the curious in you. Whether you want to meet new friends, research on a favorite topic, learn more about a culture or get to know your Celebrity Idols, Netopia's Surf 2 Save will definitely be of great benefit. Every Monday to Friday, you can surf the net for 1 hour any time from 10AM to 1PM for only 60 pesos. Now that's a great deal which makes Netopia truly a Utopia for the tech-savvy kind.

Netopia
Internet Cafe
@

JB Music and Sports
For a truly great-sounding summer, why not learn how to play a musical instrument? JB Music & Sports is a store that houses not only your usual guitar, keyboards and drums set, but other instruments as well like the saxophone, harmonica and bongos. For those seriously pursuing their niche in the music industry, JB Music & Sports also has high-tech equipment for that professional sound. But do start with the basics and whether you're aiming for an electric guitar or even the tambourine, let JB Music & Sports be the one to help you.

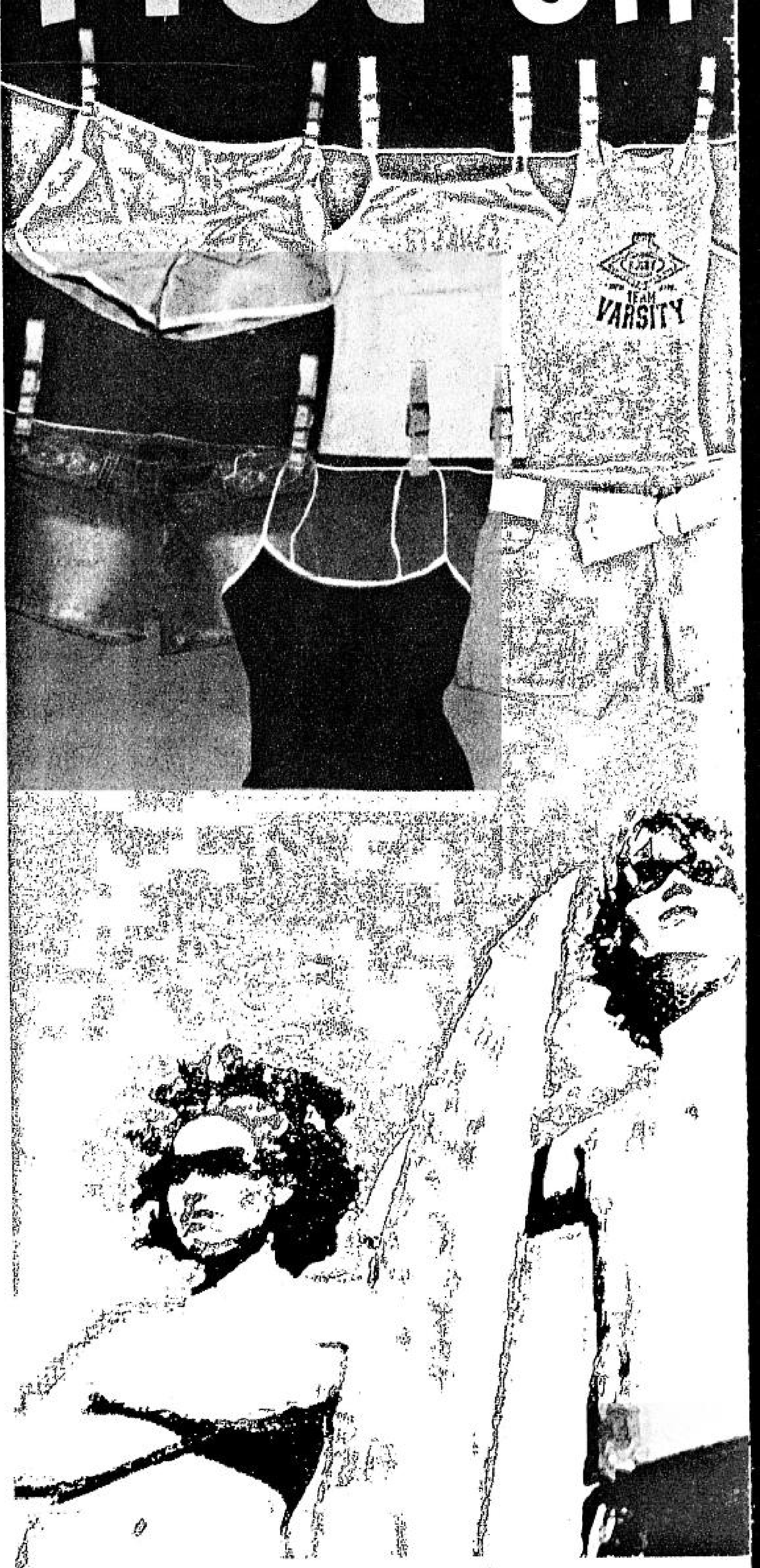
A1 Driving School
This summer, why not grow up a little bit by learning how to responsibly be behind the wheel? A1 Driving Co. Inc., the most outstanding driving school in the country for the past 5 years, has many branches in the various SM malls to teach you from 5 to 15 hours. A1 can teach you how to handle manual and automatic cars. There are a lot of cars to choose from, actually and they also offer rush courses that consist of 5 to 8 hours of straight driving. The company also has licensing assistance, professional driving consultancy and lectures. Now that's something that should make you drive, or commute, to your nearest mall.

A1 DRIVING CO., INC.
A1 DRIVING CO., INC.



Informatics
High technology is definitely in our midst and it is going even higher. More and more companies are on the lookout for tech-savvy individuals armed with the necessary information and education. This is why Informatics is relevant now. They have both short and long term courses to equip students with basic and advanced techie tools. Among the many courses they offer, some of the most in-demand are Game Development, Advanced Flash, and Artist's Studio. They can also transform you into a Linux professional, a certified Visual Basic Database programmer and a certified Internet professional.

Hot off



WHETHER you're jetting to Boracay for a well-deserved vacation or heading to the province for some rest, relaxation and reunion, the right get-up is always essential. And what better way to go this scorching season than to rival the sun's hotness?

Bring out those strappy tops and let the sun shine on those shoulders.
and ultra-short shorts to h
flawless legs. Rummage th
colorful tubes that compli
open toed footwear, wigg
your feet breathe.

Sleek and sexy are the key

Open toed is the wa

Francesco, Big Toe, P1150 Francesco, Sporty, P1350 Our Tribe, Strip Number, P595 Our Tribe, Toe to Toe, P610

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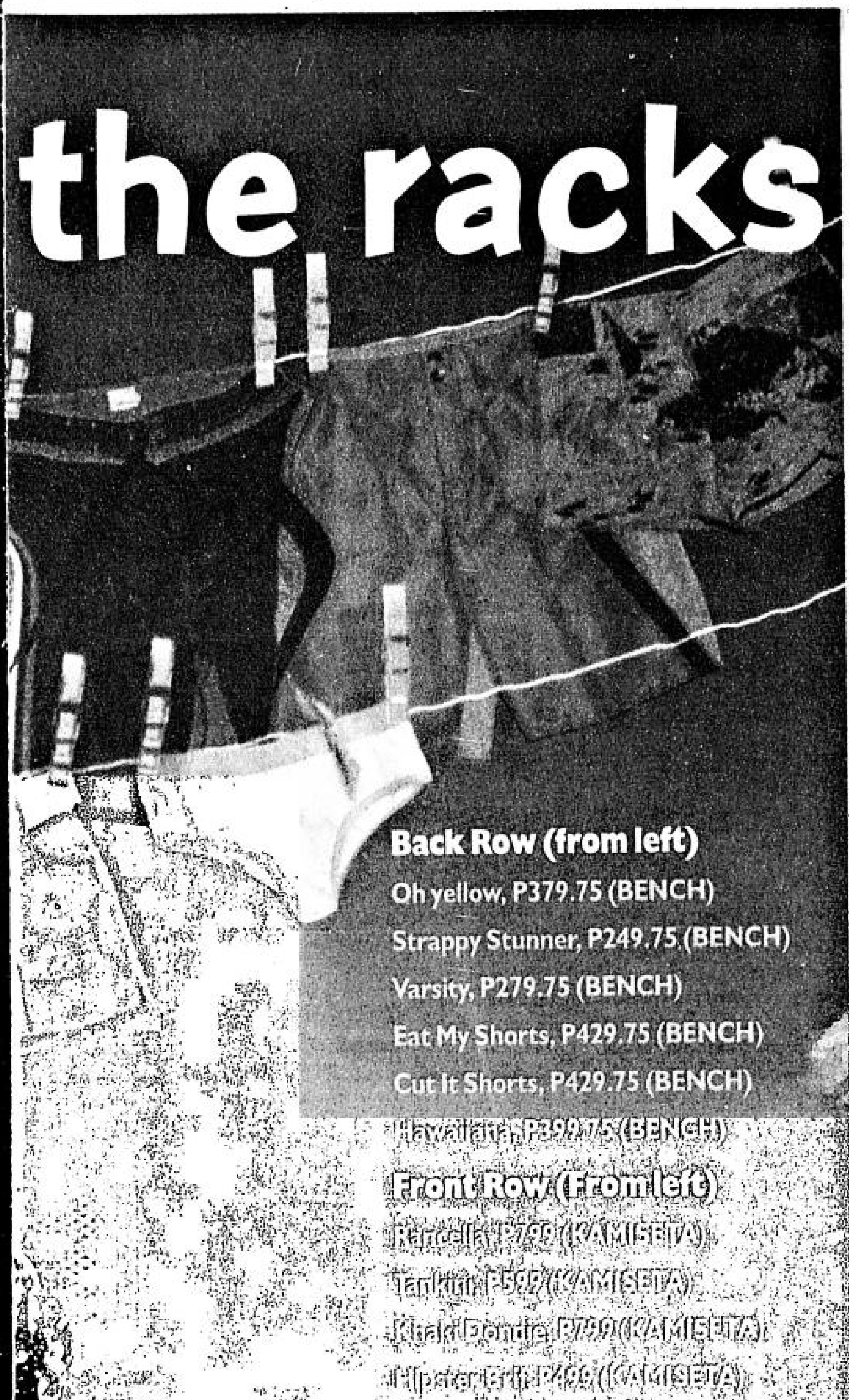
the racks



Back Row (from left)
Oh yellow, P379.75 (BENCH)
Strappy Stunner, P249.75 (BENCH)
Varsity, P279.75 (BENCH)
Eat My Shorts, P429.75 (BENCH)
Cut It Shorts, P429.75 (BENCH)
Hawaiiana, P399.75 (BENCH)

Front Row (From left)
Rancella, P799 (KAMISETA)
Tankini, P599 (KAMISETA)
Khaki Dondie, P799 (KAMISETA)
Hipster Brief, P499 (KAMISETA)

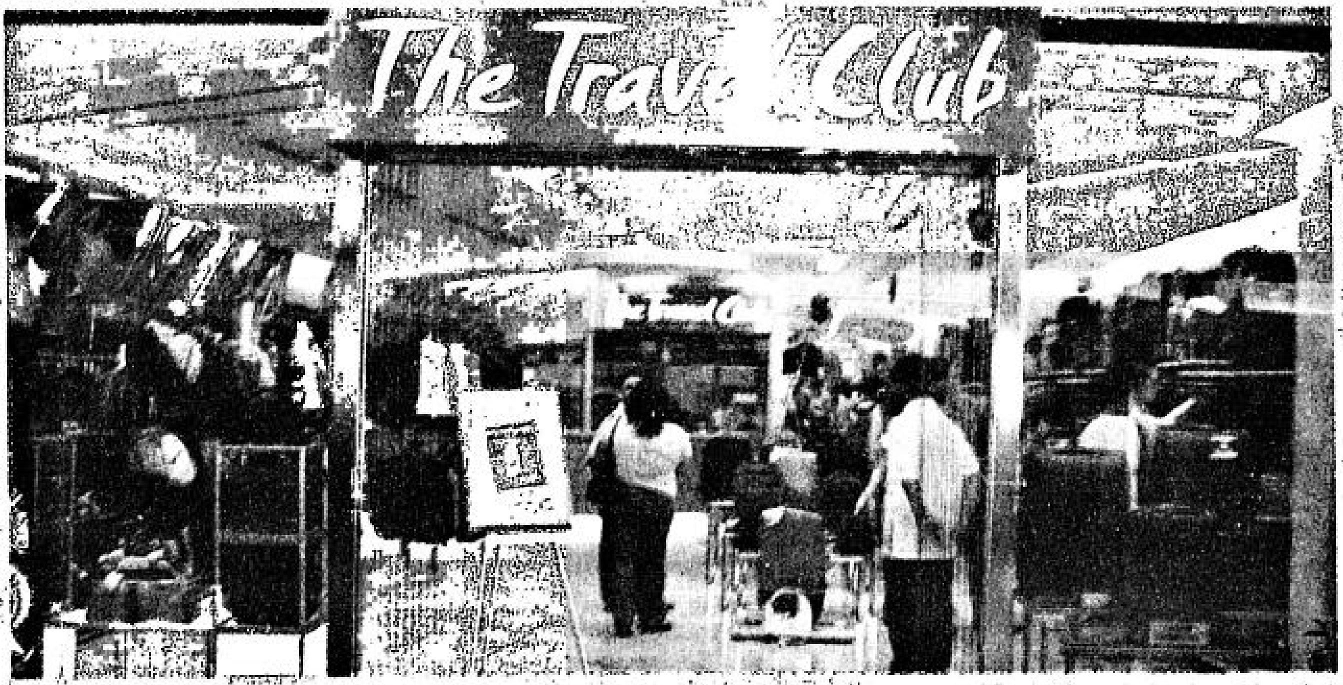
Vear those hot minis ghlight your long, rough the racks for nent your tan. Go for · those toes and let

vords to keep in mind this sun season. Go for comfort. Show some more skin. And don't forget to throw in some color.

When armed with the right apparel, summer is more fun - whether you're in the province, on the beach, by the pool or at the mall - summer undoubtedly more fun.

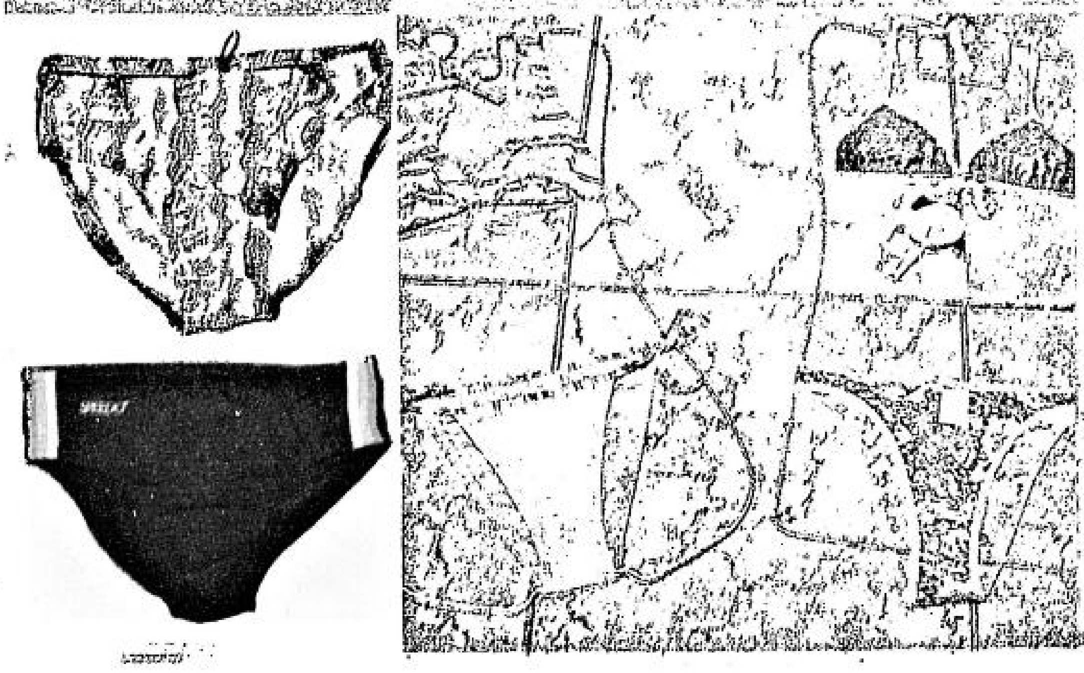
Sun-sational summer essentials

Stuffed in your vibrant floral bag are your lip balm, headgear, sunblock and moisturizer. You're almost complete, but you ain't totally complete until you also have the following.



Bags from The Travel Club

Eyewear from Acebedo Optical

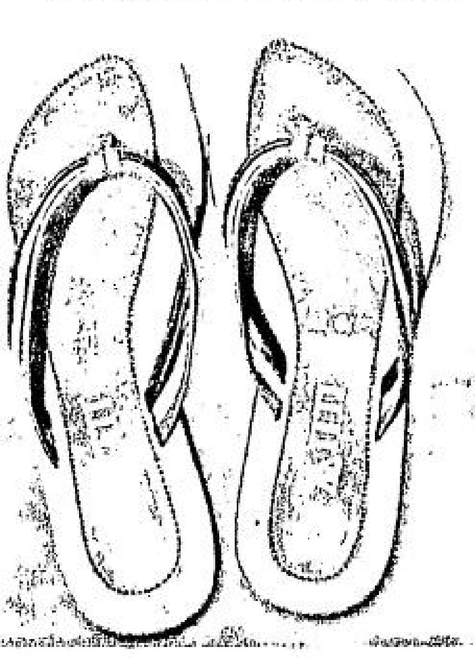


Swimwear from Speedo

y to go

Nike Stadium, Green with Envy, P595

Nike Stadium, Just Buy It, P1495



ITTI, Citric Cutie, P249

ITTI, Brown Beauty, P999

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Beat the heat with these ice cold thirst quenchers

PARCHED throats? Gulp generously then and feel the benefits of that life-giving liquid. Although water's the best, it wouldn't hurt to add some flavor to it from time to time and treat oneself to a refreshing round of sweetness. When the hot season exhausts your energies or all that window-shopping weakens you, delight in the fact that various concoctions are available in every corner of the SM malls to quench your thirst and rev you up for more summer activities.

Goldilocks

To refresh you this summer, Goldilocks has Maiz con Hielo (34 pesos) and Sago Gulaman (24 pesos). Flavorful, yummy and definitely cold, they are a treat to undoubtedly go for.

Jollibee

You'll go totally crazy for Jollibee's Ice Craze. Priced at 25 pesos, you can choose between 2 mmm-inducing flavors: Mais con Hielo and Bujo Pandan.

Chowking

Chowking's Halo-Halo will definitely make you come back for seconds and thirds. Petite costs 29 pesos, regular is 39 pesos. The one with one scoop of ice cream is worth 54 pesos while the one with two scoops is priced 67 pesos.

Tokyo Tokyo

Tokyo Tokyo boasts of their Red Iced Tea, which is the most refreshing around. Take a sip of tea with a twist for only 29 pesos. Add 6 pesos and you get a Sumo Size!

The Coffee Experience

Let The Coffee Experience's hot and cold coffee concoctions perk you up this lazy season. In various flavors and creaminess, their drinks will definitely add life to your vacation.

Greenwich

Reward yourself with Greenwich's Pearl Coolers. At 27 pesos, you can choose among 3 new flavors: watermelon, banana and four seasons. Surely a nice treat to beat the summer heat!

Sumptuous summer snacks for the whole family

THANKS to vacation, fun family eat-outs are now about to double or even triple in frequency! Even if the family decides to dine out for the fourth time this week, there is no need to worry because the SM Supermalls are generously sprinkled with various fast food joints and superb restaurants to satisfy your tummy. Whether daddy wants some gourmet grub or little sister is craving for some decadent dessert to cap off a hearty meal, the SM Supermalls will never run out of yummy stops for the whole family.Summer season or not, here are a few palate pleasing places to dart to for some seriously burp-inducing and tummy-patting satisfaction.

PIZZA HUT

The great thing with Pizza Hut, aside from their mmm-inducing slices of pizza, is that they also offer other palate pleasers. Like their pasta and desserts. They even have a salad bar that has the best and freshest ingredients. Another great thing about Pizza Hut is how they come up with amazing ideas to spice up their products. Definitely a must-try is their Triple Stuffed Crust Pizza containing meaty sausage pepperoni and mozzarella cheese. Truly a fresh, irresistible offering that each family member should try out!

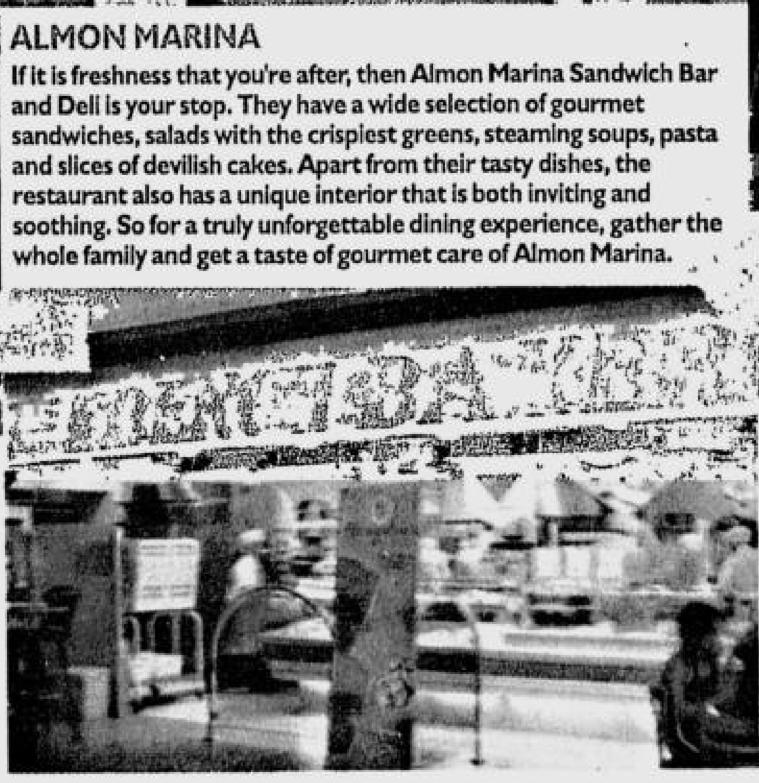
ALMON MARINA
Deli & Sandwich Bar

ALMON MARINA

If it is freshness that you're after, then Almon Marina Sandwich Bar and Deli is your stop. They have a wide selection of gourmet sandwiches, salads with the crispiest greens, steaming soups, pasta and slices of devilish cakes. Apart from their tasty dishes, the restaurant also has a unique interior that is both inviting and soothing. So for a truly unforgettable dining experience, gather the whole family and get a taste of gourmet care of Almon Marina.

SBARRO

Sbarro, the Italian Eatery, is bursting with so much flavor and you definitely don't have to take my word for it. Go there and try it out for yourself! From yummy pasta and salads to desserts, Sbarro has what it takes to make you burp aloud. Of course, their pizza is incredible. From the famous fave White Cheese pizza to the pizza sandwich called Calzone, Sbarro's pizzas are to die for!



THE FRENCH BAKER

The French Baker may offer an array of delectable rice and pasta dishes. But there is no denying that their line of bread and pastries is a great hit with theconsumers. From take home loaves and pastry-pasalubongs to cupcakes and brownies you can enjoy right at the well-lit store, the French Baker overflows with yummies. A recent addition to the menu is their collection of crepes, which is fast gaining a huge following. Whether you're a pastry or a pasta fan, the French Baker is an excellent choice to bring the family to whenever you crave for a satisfying tummy experience.

Saturday • May 1, 2004

PROPERTY PREVIEWS

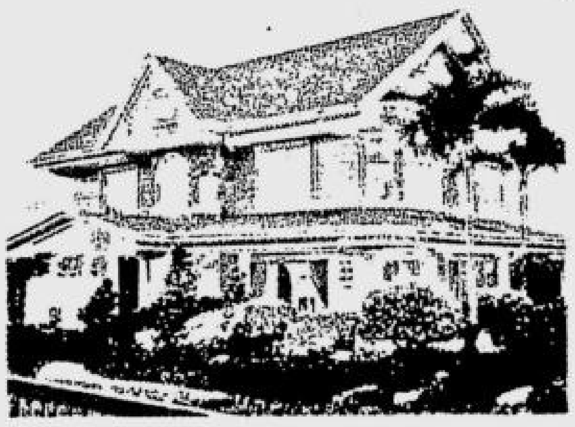
BRITTANY BAY: THE BIRTHPLACE OF URBAN RENEWAL

A VISION SOON TO BE REALIZED THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE POSADAS FAMILY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BRITTANY CORPORATION.

The maverick of uniquely-themed properties, Brittany Corporation and visionary land owners, the Posadas Family, are quickly transforming 50 hectares in Sucat beside Laguna de Bay into an oasis for urbanites seeking a revitalized city lifestyle.

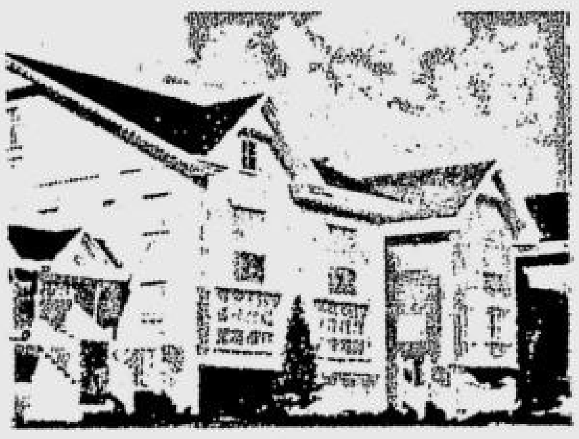
From a tract of land in Sucat, Brittany Bay will soon emerge as the epitome of urban renewal—of life styled in the charming neo-Victorian character of San Francisco, California, USA.

A carefully master-crafted lifescape, Britanny Bay is composed of the complementing communities of La Posada, Victorianne Row, Viera, and Presidio. La Posada presents single detached units for those whose lifestyles are moving up. Victorianne offers duettos and quadrilles whose architecture is patterned after San Francisco's famous "Postcard Row". Viera features mid-rises that put forward the value of privacy, style and community. Presidio's low to mid-rises embody function, distinction and passion. This bayview address will be the first and only neo-Victorian-inspired condominium development in the country with the best views of the Sierra Madre Mountains and the Laguna de Bay.



La Posada is suited for those whose lifestyles are moving up

Following the vision of urban renewal, everything you need is laid out to be an enjoyable short walk away as areas will be allotted for commercial establishments. You can choose to take your coffee in the comforts of your unit or at the café amongst the other residents. Do your shopping while the kids play at the nearby day care center.



Victorianne takes after San Francisco's "Postcard Row"

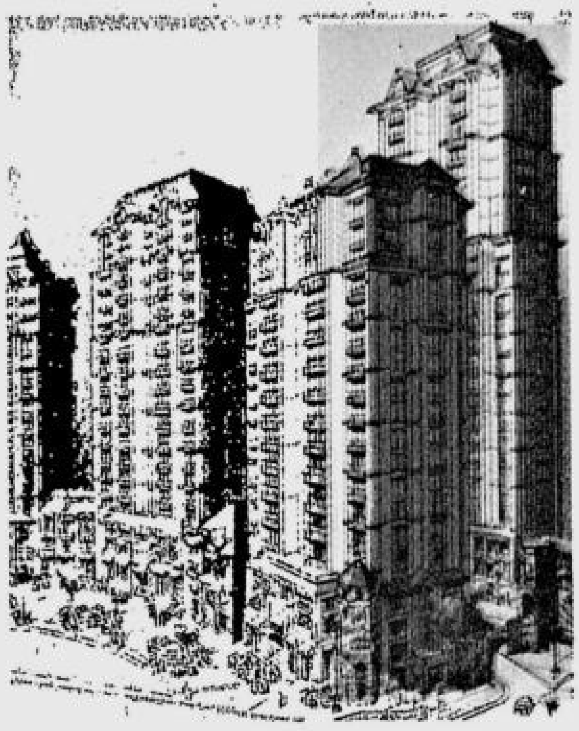
Discover the joys of urban renewal right in Brittany Bay.

Get closer to nature with leisure walks cooled by the winds from the lake while witnessing breathtaking sunrises. There's almost no need to leave the self-contained world of Brittany Bay.

One look at Brittany Bay could leave you wondering—is it a different era in a different country? Brittany Bay emulates neo-Victorian architecture—an eclectic blend of designs inspired by Gothic architecture, French Renaissance palaces, Turkish towers, Italian palace structures, and English castles.

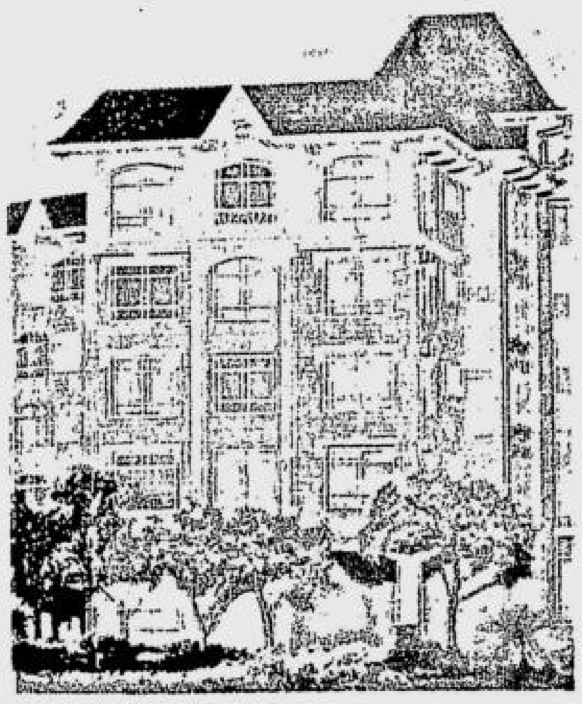
Structures will have different color overlays and neo-Victorian-inspired wood details on the porches. It's all meant to appeal and appease your senses. And it's a far cry from the look of typical concrete jungles, as all the towers, balconies, and bay windows showcase the view of the great outdoors.

Moreover, Brittany Bay is ideally located. It is accessible to any of the major cities in the metro. This is a boon for upwardly mobile professionals who need to be in Alabang or Makati in a few minutes. They can also reach Pasig and Quezon City quickly through C5 and even faster upon the completion of the C6 coastal road along Laguna Lake.



Viera puts value on privacy, style and community

Brittany Bay promises the weary urbanite a world of comfort and good life that is not far from the metropolis. It is a setting intentionally made to give the feeling of being in a different place without losing sight of what is familiar. These benefits of urban renewal set the next standard in city living—and will soon be experienced in Brittany Bay.



Find function, distinction and passion in Presidio

THE POSADAS FAMILY: HEIRS WITH A VISION

Since Spain's rule, the great Posadas patriarch Manila Mayor Juan Posadas, owned close to 300 hectares of property including a large expanse along what is now known as Sucat. But it was his wife, Doña Rosario Garcia Posadas who saw the great potential of the property.

In 1969, the Posadas family, through the initiative of Estela Marfori Posadas, pioneered the development of residential communities. Their first venture—the Posadas Village, also known as the Augusto Posadas Village, was sold out in nine days. Doña Rosario Heights, Don Juan Bayview Subdivision, and Rosario Bayview Subdivision followed Posadas Village's success as all of these properties enjoyed brisk sales in the 70s.

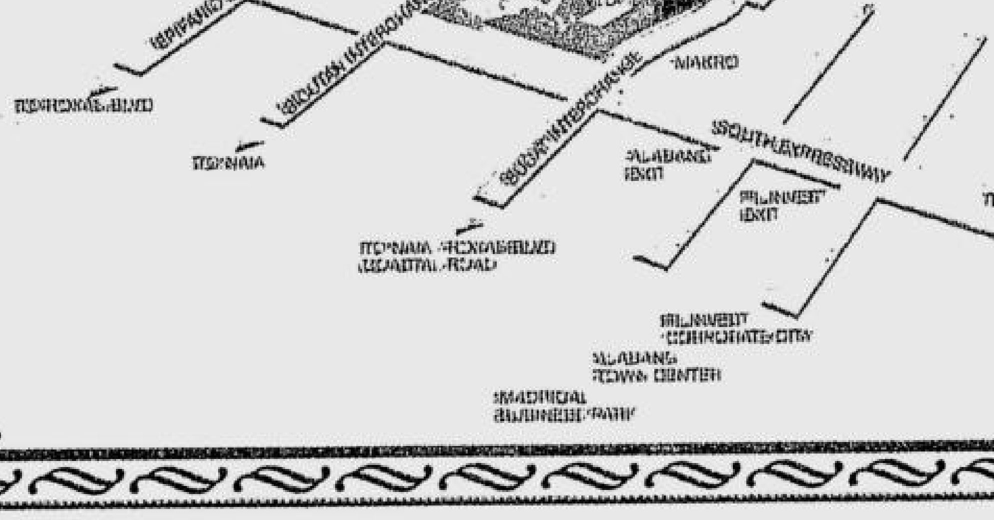
When progress spurted in Sucat, the Posadas family did not think twice when donating land for the school, basketball court, plaza, barangay hall, barangay health center, and church. Today, that same church in the Posadas Village known as The Shrine of our Lady of the Miraculous Medal is recognized as a national shrine.

In the year 2000, the Posadas heirs entered into a partnership with Brittany Corporation to develop 50 hectares of their land. The result of that partnership is Brittany Bay. Soon, the development will reach out beyond the confines of Brittany Bay to rehabilitate Laguna de Bay.

Sharing a common goal, the Posadas heirs are working closely with Brittany Corporation to bring about a sense of urban renewal for Brittany Bay by creating a neo-Victorian San Francisco inspired lifescape. Where everything is unique in theme and closer to home.

Brittany Bay

A DEVELOPMENT OF BRITTANY CORPORATION



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Sky
Mountains
16 San Francisco Victorian Towers
Greens
Bay
Because you deserve
Presidio
at Brittany Bay

The City by the Bay, San Francisco Style

Anyway you look at Presidio, it will go well beyond expectations. Situated at the crossroads of Sucat and Taguig in Brittany Bay, Presidio will be a cozy distance from the frenzy of Metro Manila. Sixteen condominium towers of varying heights will rise at the center of the 6.8 hectares of prime land abutting scenic Laguna de Bay. Envisioned as complete and self-contained, Presidio will be a city unto itself, with the ideal complement of residential garden condominiums and commercial establishments all within the complex.

You will fall in love with Presidio at first sight. The architectural theme will be San Francisco style, specifically Neo-Victorian. From the overall look down to the smallest details, everything will be a reinterpretation of this charming design style. All the features will be unique to Victorian homes: stunning gable turrets, shingled roofs, towers, balconies, bay windows and intricate laticework that will make Presidio extraordinarily appealing.

Prestigious Residential Towers at a Good Price

The masterplanned complex boasts of 16 residential towers. The first cluster is the "mixed-use residences" with commercial space at the ground level. The next cluster of low to mid-rise towers called "garden condo residences" overlook airy open spaces and beautiful courtyard. The third cluster of mid-rise towers will be known as "bayview prime addresses", which will give residents a breathtaking view of Laguna de Bay and Sierra Madre mountains.

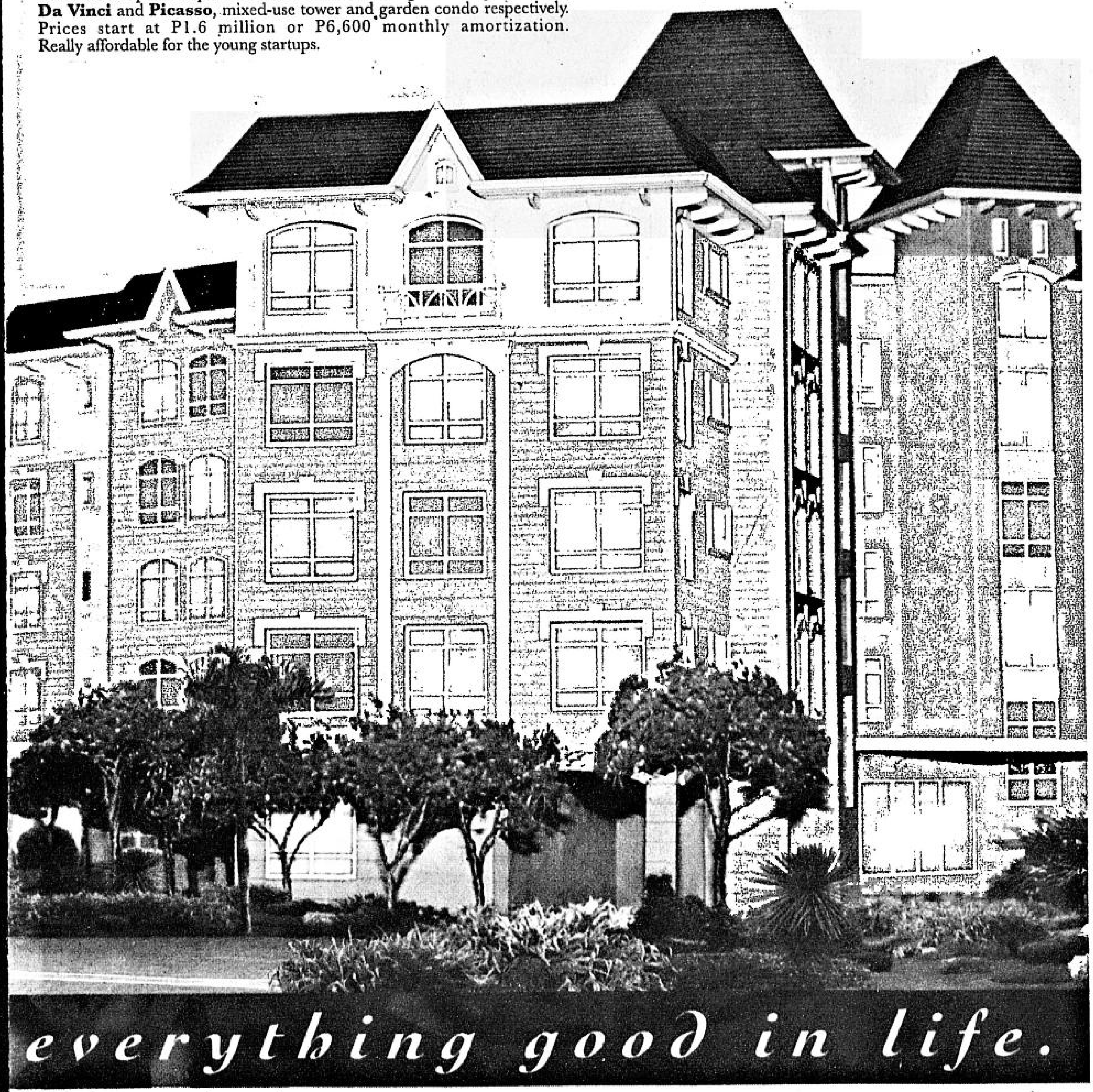
The first two picturesque verticals are named after great European artists, **Da Vinci** and **Picasso**, mixed-use tower and garden condo respectively. Prices start at P1.6 million or P6,600 monthly amortization. Really affordable for the young startups.

Commercial/Residential Hub

Presidio will pulsate with vibrant activity at the shopping and dining facilities, occupying 60% of the entire complex: premium shophouses and boutiques, numerous restaurants, rows of bistros and cafés and other specialty stores.

The residential community will have complete lifestyle features and amenities:

- Gated Community with 24-hour security
- Village Administration by experienced Property Manager
- Wide Road Networks with 22 meter-wide main roads
- Generous Planting Strips and Sidewalk
- Landscaped Parks, Playground and Courtyard
- Residential Village Center with Function Rooms, Social Hall, Swimming Pool, Multi-Sports Center, Day Care Center, Game Room, Gym, Jogging Path



Redefining the 21st century lifestyle in a masterplanned, self-contained, multi-level environment near Laguna de Bay.

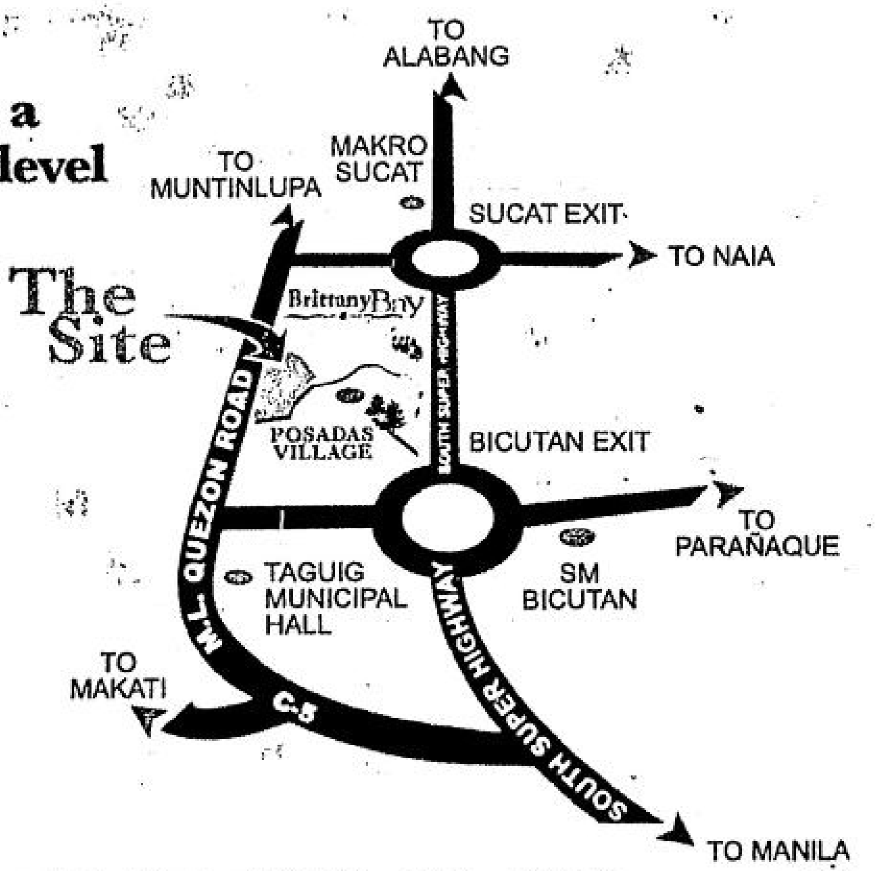
Welcome life at its best --- as it should be lived! This premier living called Presidio at Brittany Bay is the major urban renewal project our environment needs. A residential cum commercial complex wrapped in nature, it is a product of some of the country's most brilliant minds in real estate development.

Access is Most Convenient

Strategically located at the boundary of booming Sucat and the bustling City of Taguig. Just 5 minutes away from Alabang Town Center and Festival Mall, 15 minutes from NAIA, 20 minutes from Makati and Global City and 30 minutes from Ortigas, accessible via South Super Highway or C5.

This is THE LIFE. LIVE IT!

Call **718-3400** or **718-3402** now
for Property Preview.



SAN FRANCISCO'S PRESIDIO:

THE PRECEDENT OF THE PRESIDIO AT BRITTANY BAY

The Presidio at Brittany Bay takes inspiration from a predecessor rich in charm and character—San Francisco's own Presidio. Brittany Bay captures the essence of San Francisco's Presidio as reflected in its architecture and neighboring communities.

Having a cultural history dating back thousands of years, San Francisco's Presidio just south of the Golden Gate used to be the home of the Ohlone Native Americans. For thousands of years, the Ohlones managed and harvested natural bounty until the arrival of the Spanish in 1776.

The influences from the Spanish and other cultures across the years have produced a diverse architectural style, giving San Francisco's Presidio its distinct Victorian look and feel. Brittany Bay adopts the same Victorian style and translates it into low to mid-rise condominiums. Brittany Bay's Presidio adopts an eclectic mix of neo-Victorian charm found in the multiple carvings, bends and rolls and the different colors accentuating each residential tower. This design influence implemented by RECIO+CASAS is carried by the other Brittany Bay communities–La Posada, Victorianne, and Viera.

A spectacular sunrise welcomes your mornings at Presidio in Brittany Bay

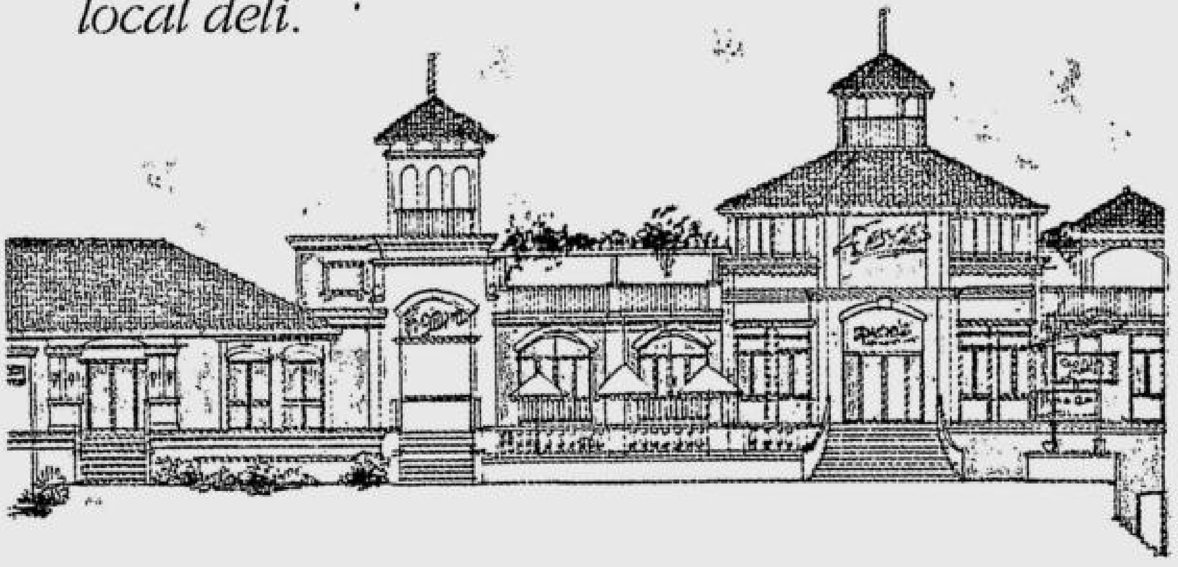
The similarity extends to the vistas. Just as San Francisco's Bay Area has a breath-taking bay view, the Presidio at Brittany Bay offers a spectacular view of the Laguna de Bay, the Sierra Madre mountain ranges and the sunrise. Moreover, everything–from shops to cafes, to restaurants and other leisure spots–can be found within the Presidio community.

Presidio at Brittany Bay puts San Franciscan living at arm's reach just like its predecessor in California.

DISCOVER POCKETS OF PLEASURE

HAPPENING SOON IN BRITTANY BAY

Imagine you're jogging and working out in the morning then making a quick stop at the local deli.



Do some banking right after a facial or get pampered at the spa before meeting up with friends. And you're doing it all right where you live. This kind of life is possible and will soon be a reality in Brittany Bay.

Say goodbye to the hassles of hurdling great distances and traffic jams just to get to leisure spots. At Brittany Bay, commercial areas are at the ground level so you don't have to go far whenever you feel like going out to wine and dine or unwind with a cup of coffee.

Leisure breaks will soon be a common sight in Brittany Bay.

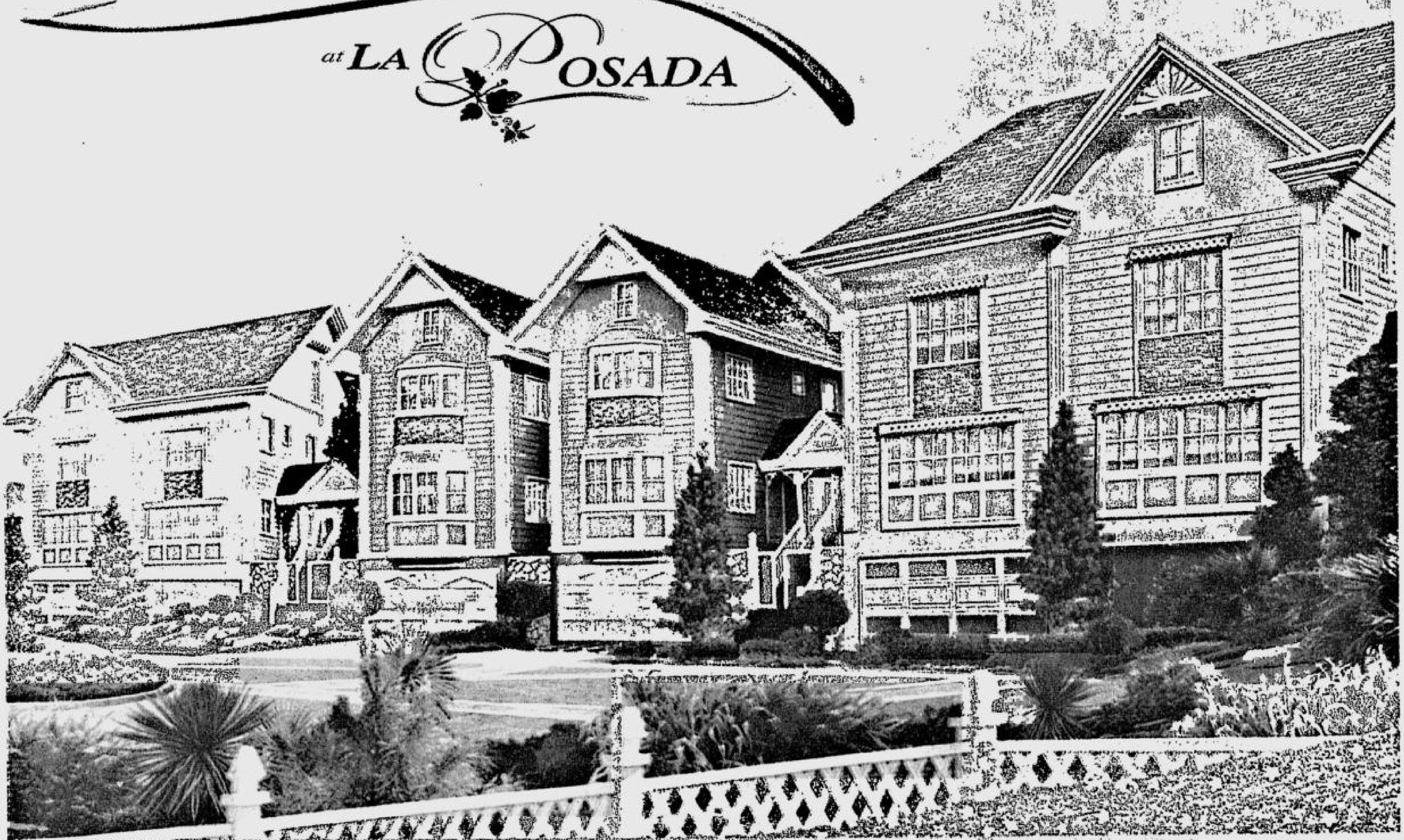
Say goodbye to the hassles of hurdling great distances and traffic jams just to get to leisure spots.

Set against the landscape of Laguna Lake, with a great view of the Sierra Madre mountain range, the idyllic charm is heightened by the neo-Victorian architecture of the La Posada, Victorianne,Viera, and Presidio communities.

Take a stroll through brick walkways or settle on a bench surrounded by greenery. Have an intimate chat with a friend at a nearby tea salon. Go grocery shopping a few hours before cooking dinner. It's the kind of life that's a pleasure and it's coming soon in nearby Brittany Bay.

Victorianne

at LA POSADA



First Taste of Success

Welcome to the fold of the distinguished class. Victorianne at La Posada in Brittany Bay graciously opens its doors to families and individuals whose success is now being fulfilled. These cozy, stylish nests, just 15 minutes from Makati and 10 minutes from Alabang, mark the beginning of fine living, romantically portrayed in Neo-Victorian rows of Duplexes and Quadrilles. Your new home now waits for you.

For bigger families, you can also choose from our individual homes at La Posada.

Want to know more? Call: 850 2868/850 6986 • www.brittany.com.ph

Getting there is easy: Take the Sucat Exit of South Luzon Expressway. From the Sucat Interchange, take the East Service Road and it's only 50 meters from there. Just look for the Brittany Bay billboard.

Brittany
CORPORATION